DUDLEY
CHRONICLE

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BYE BEARDS

Friends lose their whiskers for charity

PAGE 4

ART SHOW

Black Country scenes go on display

PAGE 6

BID TO RESTORE GLASS TRIBUTE

A £100,000 funding bid to restore an iconic Dudley memorial to war-time leader Winston Churchill is to be drawn up.

The campaign to bring back the colourful stained-glass tribute, which formed the centrepiece of Dudley's original Churchill Precinct for more than 20 years, was launched in 2013.

By Lee Watton

As the nation marks the 50th anniversary of Sir Winston's death, it has now been announced the vital funding bid for the memorial will now be drawn up.

The original memorial consisted of 17 panels which stretched across a section of the Churchill Precinct. It was designed by world-renowned artist Edward Bainbridge Copnall and was unveiled in 1969.

The memorial was taken down in 1991 after vandal attacks and weather damage took their toll.

Remaining panels were placed in storage after their removal.

At the time if its creation, the adhesive used to hold the panels together was not compatible with the materials used.

Team

Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who started the campaign, has brought together a team which has met with Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bosses to discuss the project.

Members have now won Dudley Council backing to put together the £100,000 bid to fund the restoration project.

Mr Austin said the team included representatives from community arts project Artspace, which is based in the Churchill Shopping Centre, along with Dudley Council environment boss Hilary Bills, council officers and the borough artist Steve Field. They will now draw up the bid which will be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Mr Austin said it had not yet been decided how much of the memorial would be restored and what would be recreated.

But he said it was hoped all of the original pieces of the tribute that are in good enough condition would be used in the restoration.

"These are questions which will be answered as the bid is being put together," he said. "We are also working on the question of where the restored memorial will be placed.

"This is a really serious piece of work and we have spent a lot of time getting to this stage. This is an important historical memorial and putting together a bid to HLF requires technical expertise, which is why this amount of time has been taken.

"I'm really pleased we're able to make this announcement to coincide with the anniversary of Winston Churchill's death 50 years ago. Everyone who grew up in Dudley will remember the magnificent memorial to Winston Churchill."

Dancing Grannies team up with Marlene

Comedienne Marlene Watson with the Fizzogs' Dancing Grannies Sue Hawkins, Deb Nicholls and Jacky Fellows

COMEDY sensations The Dancing Grannies are back — this time with a little help from Black Country comedienne Marlene Watson.

The grannies, part of Fizzog Theatre Productions, will be reappearing in their latest comedy tour called Fifty Shades of Fizzogs next month.

This time Deb Nicholls, Sue Hawkins and Jackie Fellows will be joined by Quarry Bank-born Mrs Watson, who herself has become an internet sensation at the age of 68 after posting jokes on her Facebook page A Black Country Wench.

Mrs Watson, of Wall Heath, will be touring with the grannies. She said: "I'm too old to be one of the grannies but I'll help in anyway I can."

Fizzog Deb Nicholls, 42, from Wollaston, said: "Marlene is as mad as a frog, she is just what we're looking for to support our show.

"We've been hoping to work with her for a long time."

Internet

The Dancing Grannies recently found fame when a video of them performing to Flo Rida's 'Low' and Beyonce's 'Single Ladies' at Stourbridge Carnival went viral, viewed more than a million times on the internet. Mrs Watson said: "When the opportunity came, of course I've jumped at it. I think they are great and isn't good to see the popularity they now have after the Youtube coverage."

This year's tour is their sixth and already shows at Quarry Bank and Bridgnorth are sold out.

But tickets are still available for the remaining tour dates are Wednesbury Town Hall on February 20, the Midlands Arts Centre in Edgbaston on February 21, Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on February 27 and Netherton Arts Centre on March 6 and 7.

Family feel cheated by suicide of accused

'WE are now suffering our own life sentence.'

These are the words of the devastated daughter of murdered Halesowen pensioner Cynthia Beamond after the man accused of her killing was found dead in his prison cell.

Beverley Hadley fought back tears as she spoke of her distress at knowing the man accused of her mother's murder will not 'face justice'.

Alleged killer Leo Barnes, aged 33, was on trial for the murders of 80-year-old Mrs Beamond and Philip Silverstone, aged 67.

Trial

He was accused of bludgeoning Mrs Beamond to death with a saucepan at her Juliet Road home on June 27 last year. It was also alleged that he murdered Mr Silverstone with a car jack at his home in Belsize Park, London, the next day.

Police said Barnes, of Runcorn Road, Balsall Heath, was found hanging in his cell at HMP Hewell, Redditch, on Sunday morning.

Mrs Hadley said: "We are devastated as a family that the man we believe is responsible for the brutal murder of my beloved mum is not going to face justice for this horrendous crime."

New bakery creates jobs

A NEW bakery shop is opening in Dudley town centre creating 15 new jobs.

Poundbakery already has outlets in West Bromwich, Bilston and Wolverhampton. Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Margaret Aston, was due to cut the ribbon to open the bakery in High Street yesterday (Wednesday).

Shop manager Darren Lewis said: "There are lots of products that the team need to learn about, at least we've mastered the prices – it's all £1."

Car park now locked to keep yobs out

A CAR park in Sedgley will be locked at night following a campaign after residents complained of drug taking and anti-social behaviour.

Dudley Council had stopped paying for a private security firm to lock up the Tenscore car park to the rear of the Ladies Walk Health Centre.

People living nearby had complained that the failure to secure the car park, off Ladies Walk, was causing nuisance and distress due to yobs gathering there in the evening.

Security

Ward councillor Bill Etheridge claimed council bosses said volunteers may have been tasked with shutting the gates to the car park.

Following the concerns the council has agreed to reinstate the £564 it pays to the security company to ensure the car park is locked at night.

Councillor Etheridge said: "This is a victory for common sense and for nearby residents who just want to live their lives in peace.

"The reports I received about this car park were truly appalling.

"I am pleased the council has found the funds to ensure this site is secured every evening," he added.

Hospital A&E among best

DUDLEY'S Russells Hall Hospital is among the best in England for A&E performance.

Latest NHS figures show the hospital, run by the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, saw almost 100 per cent of its patients within four hours.

Over the week ending January 18, of 1,684 A&E patients at the hospital, 98.5 per cent were seen in time.

The NHS target is 95 per cent but hospitals elsewhere fell woefully short.

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CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Feature	6
Letters	7
Memory Lane	18
What's On	26
TV Listings	27 - 29
Brain Gym	30
Property	31
Motoring	38
Sport	47 & 48

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DUDLEY CHRONICLE

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Coroner's concern at failures after op

A CORONER has raised concerns about failings in care by hospital staff which led to a kidney disease patient suffering unnecessary pain and distress before she died.

Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique said staff at Russells Hall Hospital could have done more to ease the suffering of Medina Jones.

Mrs Jones, aged 42, of Brierley Hill, had been diagnosed with the rare condition calciphylaxis, which affects patients with kidney disease and results in non-healing wounds.

An inquest at Smethwick Council House heard concerns raised by Anna Diamond, a lawyer representing Mrs Jones' family, that wounds had not been dressed properly, while a tissue viability nurse had not been involved early enough.

Other issues included that she was moved between wards and there appeared to be a lack of communication between departments.

Mrs Jones was diagnosed with renal impairment in 2006. On December 19, 2012, she was taken to A&E with stomach pains and on December 25 emergency surgery was performed. Wounds failed to heal and she died on April 4.

Julie Paine, head of surgery with Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said improvements to procedure had been introduced since Mrs Jones' death, including wounds being better assessed.

Mr Siddique said: "Failures of wound care and pain management led to the distress for the patient and her family."

There was not enough evidence to support a verdict of neglect.

Fill-in hospital boss is on up to £36k a month

A CASH-STRAPPED hospital trust is paying an interim director up to £36,000 a month – significantly more than its chief executive.

Jon Scott has been working as interim executive director of operations at The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust since last June.

All the money has been paid to Scott Management Solutions, Mr Scott's company based in Chard, Somerset. It comes as the trust is holding talks with staff about cutting 400 jobs over two years to save £14 million.

Published accounts show Mr Scott paid £132,259 since last summer with payments of £34,200 in August, £36,000 in October, £27,859.57 in November and £34,200 in December. There were no payments recorded for July or September.

Chief executive Paula Clark, who earns £180,000 a year, said the trust had been unable to recruit a permanent operations director due to a 'national shortage'.

She hailed Mr Scott's work in having turned around accident and emergency, saying Dudley Group was one of only 11 trusts nationally to have met the four-hour waiting time target over the busy December period. It is now the fourth best performing in the country for waiting times.

She said: "Before Mr Scott joined the trust in June 2014 we were consistently missing the A&E target to see, treat, admit or discharge patients with four hours of arrival. Jon Scott was recommended by Monitor (the NHS watchdog) as someone who had a track record of operational turnround in the NHS. Since he has joined the trust we have seen a transformation in the emergency care pathway.

"The NHS is currently facing a national shortage of operations directors with many posts vacant and filled with interim directors."

More in work as jobless figures fall

THERE are 80 fewer Jobseeker's Allowance claimants in Dudley as West Midlands unemployment fell by 34,000 to 173,000, the biggest drop of any region in the country.

The latest jobless total from the Office for National Statistics shows a fall of 58,000 to 1.91 million, the lowest since autumn 2008.

A record 30 million people are in work.

The number of claimants in Dudley is 5,800. The total Black Country claimant count was down 1,386, to 24,998 in December.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe, said: "What we are striving to do at the council is take a significant regeneration emphasis and look at all avenues of reducing unemployment.

"We have recently seen the new Premier Inn open in Stourbridge bringing a significant number of jobs.

"What we are trying to do in Dudley is work with companies to ensure they are real jobs, not just casual work to get people off unemployment figures.

"It's about getting real jobs, real prospects and real futures for people," he said.

£9m centre open for business

Director of Dudley Advance Neil Thomas outside the centre which will boost engineering skills

DUDLEY College's new £9 million manufacturing and engineering centre is open for business.

The campus, called Dudley Advance, is home to more than 500 students as they learn about the engineering technology industry to help bridge the skills shortage.

The specialist centre off Priory Road, in Dudley's new £30 million Learning Quarter, has teaching space spread over four floors.

There are facilities for the study of engineering and advanced manufacturing including mechatronics, electrical engineering and engineering science, as well as traditional machine tool engineering.

Dudley Advance is launching its services for businesses at an employer breakfast today (Friday). This will give employers the opportunity to tour the new building and view the £1m investment in equipment and machinery the college has made.

The event is free to attend and employers can drop in any time between 8am and 10am. Call (01384) 363 860 or email helen.boden@dudleycol.ac.uk for details.

Barking dogs help to catch burglar

A PROLIFIC burglar has been locked up after two dogs helped put an end to his thieving spree.

Jonathan Cartwright did not count on the dogs which blocked his path at a house in Seymour Road, Lye.

Their barks alerted the homeowner who had been watching TV in the front room. The 45-year-old found Cartwright in his kitchen and gave chase but the burglar got away, scrambling over a garden fence.

However, the resident gave detectives an accurate description of the crook to point local officers towards Cartwright, of Thorns Road, Quarry Bank.

The 32-year-old was known to police and had also been arrested in July in connection with a break-in at Netherton Park Family Centre in which thieves targeted a shed.

Cartwright was picked out by the homeowner in an identity parade over the burglary in April.

He was jailed for three years at Wolverhampton Crown Court after being found guilty of burglary.

Dudley Police Detective Constable Sean Lowe, said: "Cartwright is a prolific burglar and people across Dudley are safer with him behind bars."

Youngsters in harmony

YOUNG people's choir Pure Harmony is now accepting new members to help them continue to hit the high notes.

The choir, based in Cradley Heath, sing at concerts throughout the year and raise money for charities with a repertoire including pop and show tunes.

Leaders Eleanor Rushbury and Lis Round are both school teachers. Pure Harmony meet Mondays during term time at Lawrence Lane Methodist Church from 6pm to 7pm and attendance is free. New members should just turn up.

EofE rock back

DUDLEY rock group EofE, who last year supported McBusted, will release new single Stars In Hollywood in March. The five-piece are back on tour this spring as support for Glamour of the Kill. This will include a gig at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on March 3.

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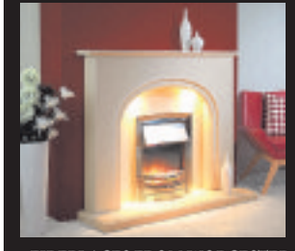
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Punching driver led to arrest at airport

PUNCHING a work colleague at a taxi company finally caught up with Omar Shahed as he prepared to board a plane almost two and a half years later, a judge heard.

The 33-year-old was involved in a bust up at Fast Line Taxis, Kingswinford, where he was working as a controller on June 7, 2012.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Shahed punched a driver in the face who had accused him of giving jobs to his friends.

Shahed was at Manchester Airport on September 19 and about to board a plane to Lahore when he was detained. There was no suggestion that he was trying to abscond, said Mr Malcolm Fowler, defending.

The defendant from North Street, Kates Hill, pleaded guilty to assault and was given a 26-week jail sentence suspended for 18 months with £800 costs and compensation.

Judge Robin Onions told him: "It was an unpleasant assault but a humiliating experience for you to be arrested at an airport. No explanation has been offered and it escapes me why you were not traced until you were boarding a plane on family matters."

Celebration of diversity

AN EVENT will be held to celebrate multicultural life in Dudley a week before the English Defence League's planned march in the town.

St Thomas's Community Network, Dudley Borough Inter Faith Network and Hope Not Hate have teamed up for the event on Saturday, from 11am to 2pm at St John's Parish Hall in St John's Road, Kates Hill.

It will feature free food, live music and family entertainment and will culminate in a balloon release at 1.30pm.

The EDL protest against a new mosque is due to take place on February 7.

Microchip pets

AN ACTION day is being held for people to get their pets microchipped. The event is being organised by the RSPCA and Dudley Council at Netherton Park activity centre, in Chester Avenue, on February 4, from 10am and 4pm. A donation will be requested.

Cleared officer may face disciplinary hearing

Died — Zhang Xuan Wei, 24

A POLICE officer, who was cleared of causing the death by careless driving of a university student, could still face a police disciplinary hearing.

Pc Vaughan Lowe, a West Midlands Police traffic officer from Stourbridge, was found not guilty after a trial at Warwick Crown Court. The 43-year-old's unmarked police BMW, which had its blue lights and siren on, struck Chinese student Zhang Xuan Wei at a crossing on the A34 New Town Row in Birmingham in April 2012.

The 24-year-old Birmingham City University student, was thrown into the air by the impact and died in hospital the next day.

Lowe, who had been responding to reports of a stolen vehicle, denied causing Wei's death by careless driving.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) said that Mr Lowe could still be disciplined over accusations of gross misconduct.

IPCC deputy chairman Rachel Cerfontyne said its report has been passed on to Mr Zhang's family and West Midlands Police. She said: "It found that Pc Lowe had a case to answer for gross misconduct as his driving fell below the required standard and failed to comply with a number of national and force-wide policies, as well as the Highway Code. West Midlands Police will now finalise internal disciplinary hearings."

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Cann said: "I once again extend our heartfelt condolences to Zhang Xuan Wei's family and friends. No parent should have to lose a child in such tragic circumstances and I am very sorry for their loss. There are no winners as a result of this verdict. A family remain grieving for a loved one and a highly skilled police officer, who has dedicated his life to public service – and who had an otherwise unblemished driving history – will forever be haunted by the events of that night."

After the verdict, Judge Andrew Lockhart QC said: "This has been, for all concerned, a case that has been difficult and involved."

New hope for Hippodrome as group given extra time

DUDLEY Hippodrome has taken one step closer to reopening as an entertainment venue after council leaders agreed there was 'potential for a major and very exciting' scheme to bring the site back into use.

Entertainment company The ROK Group has been given a further two months to work on its business plan.

It proves a major milestone in the campaign to save the theatre, which just two years ago was on the brink of demolition under council plans.

Wolverhampton-based businessman Jonathan Kendrick, co-founder of The ROK Group, is behind the £8 million transformation plans for the Hippodrome.

Mr Kendrick, whose father Vic owned the building in the 1960s, said his company have now submitted three versions of the business plan to run the venue. He said the deal needs to be resolved as soon as possible.

Investment

"I'm pleased that we have got to this stage but it has taken a long time to get here," he said. "We have got to make a decision on this soon otherwise we will take our investment elsewhere.

"It is especially emotional for me, with my attachment to the Hippodrome. We think it is the perfect setting.

"Where else would you have unique attractions like the zoo and museum — that's what Dudley can offer."

Castle Hill is being transformed under a £10 million scheme by Dudley Council to boost attractions Dudley Zoo, the Black Country Living Museum, and Dudley Canal Tunnels.

Demand is soaring for food bank

DUDLEY Council is to pump £25,000 into the Black Country Food Bank to help the service cope with soaring demand.

The number of people using the food bank, based in Brierley Hill, rose by more than 1,000 last year.

As desperate families turn to the service at an increasing rate, the council said the funding would be used to help those most in need.

The cash will come from the council's Welfare Assistance Fund, which is set aside to aid crisis-hit families.

The council's deputy leader Stuart Turner said: "By providing funding to the Black Country Food Bank we are able to reach people most in need.

"It provides a real lifeline for some people and with our help I am sure we can reach more people who need a little helping hand in these tough times."

Emma Crook, from the Black Country Food Bank, said: "It's frightening to think of how necessary the provision of emergency food has become."

Tombola to help restore historic church

Deb Brownlee, Andrew Martin and Keith Jeffries are raising money to preserve St John's Church in Kates Hill

CAMPAIGNERS raising money to fund repairs at a Grade II listed church in Dudley tare appealing for more people to support their market stall as they move closer to starting restoration work.

Takings at the tombola run by St John's Church Preservation Group have dropped in recent months.

When the stall on Dudley Market began in 2009, it generated an average of £180 a week but it has dropped to around £50 since disruption caused by the multi-million pound revamp of the town centre. Deb Brownlee, chairman of the preservation group, said: "Last week we took just £32 and the week before that £27.

Grateful

"We are asking people to come along to the stall and support our cause. We are grateful for any support we can get. We are setting up a second events team and looking for extra fundraising events to attend, and we're pushing harder onother income streams.

The Diocese of Worcester has agreed to lease the Kates Hill church, which has been closed since 2002, to the group and members have now received a second draft of a proposed lease which would enable them to take on responsibility for the building.

Supporters want to keep the 173-year-old church building, which is described as 'a virtually intact Victorian church', as unaltered as possible.

Surveys have shown the church nave and chancel are structurally sound.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Axed bus route is partly restored

NEW bus routes have launched for passengers in Old Hill and Cradley, including one restoring part of a service controversially axed by transport bosses.

They will take passengers to Merry Hill shopping centre, Halesowen town centre and Blackheath.

One of the four new routes replaces part of the old 297 service, travelling through Station Road and Barrs Road.

The 297, which ran via Quarry Bank to Russells Hall Hospital, was stopped by National Express West Midlands in the summer.

Splash down to learn a vital skill

A COURSE to help youngsters develop swimming skills will be launched next month.

The course includes five half-an-hour lessons and will be held at Dudley Leisure Centre from February 16 to 20. It is suitable for children aged five and over.

Sessions will run from 9am, 9.30am, 10am and 10.30am each day. The course costs £23.50 per child. Pre-booking is essential. For more information visit the leisure centre, in Wellington Road.

Gornal's flag to fly this weekend

AN official flag for a Black Country village will be unveiled this month.

The Gornal flag has been chosen following a competition for schoolchildren.

The flag will be unfurled outside the village's library, in Abbey Road, on Saturday at 10.50am, during a ceremony when Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston will present certificates to the winner and runners-up.

Cannabis factory is found at house

A CANNABIS factory was discovered in a raid on a house in Tipton at the weekend.

Plants with a street value of £4,000 were found by police at the property in Oakley Avenue.

The drugs haul was seized by officers in the raid on Sunday afternoon.

A 42-year-old man was questioned by police.

Cycle shelter plan

A CYCLE shelter could be built at Halesowen Leisure Centre under new plans.

The covered shelter would be installed by the front entrance. Proposals have been lodged with Dudley Council.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

"HE has a place in the nation's heart precisely because he was not perfect." Winston Churchill who died 50 years ago, as described this week by his great-grandson, Randolph Churchill.

A READER writes: "I am very cross that my young daughter just brought home a sofa and two chairs that someone gave her. I've told her not to accept suites from strangers."

IT'S a high-risk policy for the Mayor of Paris to threaten libel action against Fox News for suggesting there are no-go areas in Paris. "When we're insulted, and when we've had an image, then I think we'll have to sue," declares Mayor Anne Hidalgo. "The honour of Paris has been prejudiced." Well, maybe it has. But so was Birmingham's a few days ago when Fox made similar no-go claims. The difference is that Brum responded with a torrent of humour, burying Fox under a pile of jokes (loved the one about Brummie kids being forced to read the Kerrang!) and extracted a cringing apology. If Paris decides to stand on its honour and sue, what if Fox decides to fight? Any city in the world could produce dozens, or even hundreds, of locals prepared to swear under oath that there are neighbourhoods they avoid. Paris could end up with oeuf all over its visage. Pride goeth before a fall, as the Bible doesn't quite say.

OH, the confusion. After a couple of breast-free days, the Sun reverted to form.. My hunch is that Page 3 is on the way out, not because it is obscene, offensive or exploitative but because it has committed the sin that no-one dares forgive. It is, as Rupert Murdoch put it, old-fashioned. Not that Sun boobs will vanish entirely. Ask Google how many items it has under "Page 3" and the response is a depressingly vague "About 300,000,000"

ANOTHER class-based cock-up, this time from Labour's Chuka Umunna, shadow business secretary and MP for Streatham. Faced with an unexpected question, he flounced out of a Sky News interview declaring: "I'm not just going to speak off-piste." As they say in Streatham.

THE Church of England has announced that, for the next 10 years, all bishops' seats in the House of Lords will be reserved for newly-appointed women bishops. So a privilege which is already restricted to one denomination of one single faith will now be restricted even further by a gender bar. The only cause for joy is that it is all done by amending the Bishopric Act, which raises a smile. But if a second chamber at Westminster is necessary or desirable, isn't it high time we got a grip on the grossly over-swollen House of Lords, slashed its numbers from 800 to perhaps 200 and appointed Lords on merit, not because they are party donors, celebrities, unemployable ex-MPs or God-botherers?

FIRST World problems are those little trials which exist only in affluent societies. Take the little furore spotted a few days ago by a reader in a restaurant which advertised free wi-fi. Spotting this advert, one young diner abandoned his meal to log on. Finding the signal was too weak, he complained that this not only infringed his human rights but was against the law. Perfect.

I RECENTLY questioned the shape of Beth's pregnancy bump in Broadchurch (ITV). A reader explains: "I have connections with Dorset and medicine-ball smuggling was a family tradition." A more intriguing question is why the first series of Broadchurch was so good and this second series is poor. I suspect the answer is that the TV company was taken unawares by the success of the first series and rushed the next episodes into production. Film in haste, repent at leisure.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Getaway driver used his father's car

THE getaway driver for bungled bids to steal cigarettes from Black Country shops has been spared jail.

Ashley Riley, of Clarence Road, Bilston, used his father's car after being recruited for the raids, a judge was told. The gang struck first at A&B News in Poole Crescent, Coseley, at 12.10am on October 17, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The owner of the business and his family were in their flat above the shop and saw three men forcing the shutters with crowbars in a failed attempt to break in, said Howard Searle, prosecuting. The raiders fled to a waiting car and drove off after realising they had been spotted.

An hour later, they tried to smash into Bridgefield Stores in Constantine Way, Bilston, causing an estimated £3,500 damage. A witness noted the car's registration number, traced to the father of 26-year-old Riley. Jon Roe, defending, said: "He (Riley) was recruited by others who are older and more experienced and had leverage over him."

Father-of-one Riley, who had no previous convictions, pleaded guilty to the two attempted robberies and was given a 16-month jail sentence suspended under supervision for two years, 200 hours unpaid work, three-month curfew, and told to pay £450. Judge Robin Onions said: "These were ham-fisted attempts to force a way into premises late at night that caused considerable upset. You were recruited foryour father's car, and should have had nothing to do with it."

Two other men have been charged.

Metro route to Merry Hill is back on agenda

LONG-STALLED plans to create a second Midland Metro line serving the Merry Hill Centre will be considered at a meeting this week.

Tram lines and light rail services connecting more of the Black Country with Wolverhampton and Birmingham are to be considered by transport chiefs.

The West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority, which was due to meet yesterday (Wednesday), was considering reviving the second Midland Metro line to connect the Merry Hill Centre with Wednesbury along the old Stourbridge freight line.

By Daniel Wainwright

It follows revived interest in a line linking Wolverhampton rail station with New Cross Hospital.

Zoo

Options include 'very light rail' similar to the £20 million plan for 'tram trains' to link Dudley Port station in Tipton to the site of Dudley's former station at the bottom of Castle Hill, serving Dudley Zoo, the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust.

A report to council leaders says it is re-visiting plans with 'the first stated priority being the Walsall to Stourbridge corridor to provide high-quality access to Merry Hill and Brierley Hill'.

The report reveals legal powers remain in place to allow the line to be built 'although to date it has not proved possible to secure funding'.

It adds: "In recognition of the difficulties in securing funding, the potential for Very Light Rail using innovative methods of track construction and motive power are being investigated in tandem with proposals for a Light Rail Innovation Centre alongside the route."

It follows a request from Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton councils which are keen to see a rapid transit network linking town centres in a bid to boost employment, education and leisure.

If given the go-ahead, the review is likely to determine which routes and types of vehicle can offer the best options in terms of benefit and value for money.

It would also take into consideration new developments such as the Black Country Enterprise Zones at i54 and Darlaston.

Pub plans to be discussed

CAMPAIGNERS who won a bid to stop plans for a convenience store to be built on a Black Country pub car park are holding a public meeting to decide what to do next.

New River Retail's £1 million plan for a Co-Operative store next to the Haden Cross Inn in Cradley Heath, was rejected by Sandwell Council, after a campaign by pub customers.

The Friends of Haden Cross Inn have vowed to continue to protect the pub and safeguard its future. They will discuss plans at the pub in Halesowen Road on Tuesday, February 10, 7.30pm.

The beards have got to go

Half way there —Adrian Carrier, left, and Graham Haugh lose their whiskers for charity

TWO friends from Kingswinford have lost their impressive beards for a good cause.

It took 14 months for friends and colleagues Graham Haugh, aged 30, and Adrian Carrier, 29, to grow their whiskers but they were shaved off when the tradesmen decided to re-style their appearance to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK. So far they have collected more than £500.

Graham, a plumber, said: "I had been doing 'Movember' for the past few years and then Adrian decided to go one step further and to start growing a beard. I ended up joining in. Before we knew it it had turned into a bit of a 'beard-off'. A year later and we were left with pretty substantial beards."

The friends decided to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK after Graham's father-in-law, Michael Silk, died from the disease in September 2013.

Graham admitted the shave at Chapter One Barbers in Pedmore had gone down well with his wife, Meriam.

Activities galore for half-term at centre

DANCING, crafts, swimming and football are among the activities being staged at a leisure centre to keep youngsters entertained over the half-term holiday.

An aqua run and junior active zone will be staged at Dudley Leisure Centre, in Wellington Road, on February 17 and 19. The aqua run will include obstacles and a challenge section with slide. Sessions on both days will run from 1.45pm to 2.45pm.

It is suitable for eight to 15s who can swim 25 metres or more and costs £2.80 per child. Juniors can then stay in the pool for a swim for an extra £1 afterwards.

Active zone offers a day of fun including dance mats, multi skill activities, craft sessions, swimming and team games including football, rounders, basketball and badminton for £20 per day.

Active zone will run on both days 9am to 4pm and is suitable for children aged eight to 14. Pre-booking at reception is recommended for most of the activities. Under 16s can get a 50 per cent discount for courts for badminton, squash, five-a-side football, netball and basketball.

Visit Dudley Leisure Centre or go online to www.dudley.gov.uk/sport

Landmark to be two homes

A £192,000 scheme to refurbish a landmark Dudley building has been approved.

Listed Holloway Hall Chambers will be converted into two town houses by Dudley Council.

The building is near the Holloway Chambers and Elizabeth House buildings in Priory Street, which were converted into offices by the council. The council is working to increase the number of homes in the town centre and Holloway Hall has been chosen as the next stage.

Councillor Rachel Harris said it would create two one-bed houses for rent.

Psychic on stage

TELEVISION psychic Sally Morgan will take her show to Dudley on her latest tour.

She takes to the stage at Dudley Town Hall on April 27. Morgan has built up a following through her appearances on Sky Living.

For tickets visit www.dudley.gov.uk

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Birthday cash hope sparked robbery

A WOMAN robbed a shop in a bid to get money for her daughter's birthday, a judge heard. Marcia Anderson, of Rowley Regis, walked behind the counter of Samra Stores in Victoria Park Road, Smethwick and demanded cash from the till.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that when the manager refused the 42-year-old from Greenwood Avenue pulled something from her sleeve.

Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting, said: "The woman shop manager thought she was going to be shot. The defendant took some loose change from a drawer and left but during the incident the manager had removed clothing that was covering her face and recognised her."

Police found Anderson with £5 that had been taken from the shop. She pleaded guilty the robbery on July 7 on the basis that she did not threaten to kill anybody and was not armed with a gun.

Mr Jones concluded: "She told officers after her arrest that she was frantic to get some money because it was her daughter's birthday."

Judge Martin Walsh adjourned the matter to a date to be set and remanded Anderson in custody.

Helpline for new mothers

A HELPLINE is being launched by Dudley Council to support breastfeeding mums.

The Buddy Service Helpline is an extension to the existing breastfeeding buddy scheme. New mothers can access support from a trained volunteer who can provide information on support groups.

Volunteers are unable to make home visits but can arrange for mother and baby to be met by a buddy at a children's centre. The helpline is on (01384) 814545. It is open from 9.45am to 12.15pm, Monday-Friday, or leave a message.

Rail topic at talk

BLACK Country historian Ned Williams will be giving a talk on February 19 at Stourbridge Town Hall about The Earl of Dudley's Railway.

Mr Williams will be talking at 7.30pm to the meeting of Stourbridge Historical Society.

Cancer charity fraudster is put behind bars

Charity cheat David Armson

A CROOK who convinced more than 100 people to give him cancer charity donations and spent the money on drugs has been locked up.

Fraudster David Armson, aged 25, who has nine previous convictions for similar crimes, went door to door saying he was collecting sponsorship for Cancer Research's Great Christmas Pudding Race. Families donated up to £8 each. The addict spent all the cash on drugs.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that the father-of-one knocked on doors in Gough Road, Coseley, on September 14. At one house he thought was empty, he smashed a pane of glass and tried to break in.

Mr Nick Wadsworth, prosecuting, said one resident caught Armson spying through the letter box to check if a house was empty.

When he did not get an response at another property, he smashed a pane of glass in the front door and had his arm through the hole when the occupant appeared in the hall to answer the bell. Armson was chased by the resident, who took a picture of the fleeing burglar on their phone.

Police called to the scene recognised Armson in the photograph and arrested him on October 7. When they went to arrest him, officers smelt burning from inside his flat and discovered the remains of a charity sponsorship form in a bin. More forms filled with details of more than 100 sponsors were found.

Mr David Wallace, defending, said: "The most anybody paid was £8 and the average was about £4, meaning the total sum involved in this fraud was around £400. It was small and pathetic and not a high level means of maintaining the drug habit it was meant to feed."

Armson, of Dimmocks Avenue, Coseley, who had 24 previous convictions involving 128 offences, pleaded guilty to burglary, fraud and going equipped for fraud and was jailed for a total of 24 months.

Judge Robin Onions said: "This trades on the goodwill of people prepared to give money for a worthwhile cause since many have been touched by the scourge of cancer."

Protesters at meeting on child transport cuts

PROTESTORS gathered outside a Dudley council office to show their anger at proposals to make cuts to free transport for children with special needs.

Up to 20 demonstrators from Dudley Coalition Against the Cuts gathered outside the office of Dudley Council's children's services last week while the council's children's services scrutiny committee was meeting to discuss the changes.

The move comes as the council seeks to save more than £200,000 a year.

The authority said it is not legally required to provide the service and launched a consultation over bringing in charges.

The council currently pays for 49 children with additional needs to travel to specialist nurseries in the borough.

Demand

But leaders claim they have been forced to consider axing the service after cutbacks by Government.

They also said that demand for the service will decrease and that by September, when the proposed charges could be introduced, only 11 children would be affected.

Marc Carter, of Brierley Hill, was among the demonstrators. He said the transport needed to be tailored to the children's needs, especially if they had mobility problems or medical equipment such as oxygen tanks.

Committee chairman Councillor Melvyn Mottram said the council would look at alternative ways of enabling the children to get to nursery, including providing a personal budget to pay for their own transport in exceptional circumstances.

Meeting on Twitter and Facebook

ALMOST 1,000 residents took to social network sites to join a public meeting with the leader of Dudley Council online.

People watched or joined the debate on Twitter and Facebook during the online community forum with council leader Councillor Pete Lowe.

Dudley is believed to be the first local authority in the country to hold a public meeting on both major social media sites at the same time.

Among questions asked during the online forum were if council tax would be frozen, which is planned, and about road gritting during the worst of the winter weather.

Councillor Lowe said: "I am delighted to see so many people coming forward to discuss ideas and issues with us through the online community forums.

"We are national leaders when it comes to engaging with people in this way."

Residents can also attend local neighbourhood forums held around the borough.

Young talent readyf or panto laughs

Panto time in Netherton for Adrian Raybould as Ali Baba, right, with fellow cast members Ricky Stevens and Laura Homer

BUDDING performers are treading the boards in their version of the pantomime Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves.

The Young Ones and Their Guests, made up of 40 actors aged from seven to 18, with some roles played by older guests, are be taking to the stage at Netherton Arts Centre this week.

The group, which has been running for more than 40 years, gives aspiring young entertainers the chance to perform alongside veteran amateur actors from across the borough.

Seasoned panto dame Mike Bradley will be taking to the stage alongside Adrian Raybould as Ali Baba, Ricky Stevens who plays Ahmed Baba and Laura Homer who plays a spirit dancer.

The story is based on the story from the One Thousand And One Nights, which tells the tale of a brave and beautiful slave girl who saves Ali Baba and his family.

Members of The Young Ones are putting their own twist on the story. Director and choreographer Audrey Henwood said: "Rehearsals began in September. It's a very colourful and lively pantomime which will be very enjoyable to watch."

The group, which was founded in 1973, performs a pantomime every year and aims to give youngsters interested in acting, singing and dancing the chance to take to the stage with help from more experienced amateur performers.

The production runs until January 31 at the venue in Northfield Road,. Tickets cost £8.50 and £10 from Chris Sykes on (01384) 895266.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New cemetery to open next month

A NEW £200,000 cemetery in Dudley to solve the shortage of burial space problem in the borough will open for funerals next month.

More than 1,000 extra plots are being created on the site off Clee Road, opposite the existing Dudley Cemetery.

The space includes 1,000 adult plots, 140 smaller plots, space for 150 cremations, and will be able to cater for all religions.

The site, to open at the end of February, will have enough burial space to last in the region of 20 years.

From pub to pizza at Struggling Man

A PUB in Dudley will be transformed into a takeaway pizza outlet, under new proposals.

The Struggling Man, at the junction of Dibdale Road and Salop Street, would be transformed in the scheme. Papa Jones has submitted a change of use application.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said he was surprised as a similar business shut down and was converted into a funeral directors nearby.

A decision is pending.

Morphine stolen in warehouse raid

THIEVES have made off with prescription drugs, including morphine capsules, during a raid on a warehouse at an industrial estate in Brierley Hill.

Police have urged anyone offered diamorphine, fentanyl, morphine capsules, oxycodin, dextomoramide, dipipanone or tamazipan on the streets to contact them immediately.

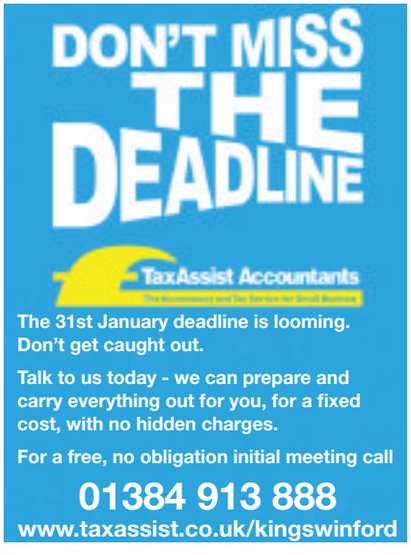
Call Dudley Police on 101.

Magic matinee at town centre venue

MAGIC is in the air for half-term with a performance by magician Michael Jordan in the High Jinx Magic and Illusion show at Stourbridge Town Hall. The magician will be joined by the High Jinx Dancers. Tickets cost £10 adults, £8 children and £32 for a family of four at the 2.30 show on February 18. Call 0870 3207000.

Mystery drama

DUDLEY Little Theatre will be performing Daphne Du Maurier's mystery My Cousin Rachel at Netherton Arts Centre, Northfield Road, March 11 to 14. See www.dudleylittletheatre.org or call (01384) 872583.



IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

IT'S confession time. I've changed, I've done a U-turn, turned my back on my principles.

Last year I wrote about my steadfast resistance to the smartphone revolution, and clinging to my battered old pay-as-you-go Nokia. People laughed at it but it made calls and sent text messages, which is essentially what a phone is for.

But just over a month ago I succumbed, and got my first smartphone. Not that I paid for it, you understand. And I certainly haven't tied myself down to one of those contracts which seem a bit too much like buying your telly on the never-never.

But if you manage to amass 10,000 'Freebie Rewardz' points, you get one free, a Nokia Lumia something or other. And since the old one was clearly on the way out, it seemed rude not to.

There are a lot of things I don't like about Freebie Rewardz, not least the 'z'. Spelling things wrongly doesn't make you funky or modern, just stupid. And given that to qualify for 10,000 Rewardz points you have to spend a grand on calling credit, calling them 'freebie' is a bit of a stretch.

That said, the phone is very shiny. And it makes a groovy clicking noise when you turn it on and off. Just one problem. Where are the instructions?

My old phone, which was pretty basic, came with 98-pages of instructions. One or two I could have done without. Like the two pages entitled: "Turning your phone on and off." Or the section "Making and receiving calls", which featured such nuggets as "(1) Enter the area code and phone number" and "(2) press 'yes'."

But the instructions for this one run to just two pages. And I've no idea how to use it.

"You look on the internet for instructions these days," explained a young person in the office. Fair enough. Unless, of course, you need the phone to access the internet.

Anyway, it all got sorted and, for a few days, I must admit I thought it was all pretty cool, being able to surf the information superhighway and check my emails at any time.

Then I started being woken by text messages in the night.

"We notice you have started using data. You will be charged £2." Whaaat? So some bozo on the other side of the world sends you an an email trying to flog you counterfeit Viagra, and you're expected to pay £2 for the privilege. That's £14 a week. Or £728 a year. Think of how many bags of pork scratchings you could get for that.

After consulting again with the said young person, I have now managed to turn the internet off. So one month after becoming part of the smartphone generation, I now have a phone which does the same thing as my old one but takes up twice as much space in my pocket. That's progress for you!

Painting of the Red House Glass Cone at Wordsley

Dudley Castle provides the backdrop for these anglers

Clent Hills by David Williams is on display

Familiar scenes put in the frame

A group's artwork depicting many regional landmarks has now gone on display. **LEE WATTON** reports

HISTORIC buildings, canalside scenes and familiar landmarks are featured in a new exhibition staged by a group of Black Country artists.

The Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley and the Clent Hills are among the places depicted in watercolours, oils, pastels and acrylics.

Art lovers can see the works, created by the Brierley Hill Society of Artists, on display at the Red House Glass Cone until March 22.

Many of the images depict familiar scenes from across the region with paintings of the Prestwood Canal at Stourton near Stourbridge, Kingswinford's Broadfield House Glass Museum and Bunkers Hill Wood, in Netherton, also featured.

Members have also taken their inspiration from further afield with comedic paintings of an African safari alongside paintings of Venice and Falaise in France.

Exciting

Among those exhibiting paintings in the exhibition are group members David and Dorothy Williams, of Westwood Avenue, Norton, Stourbridge.

The couple have been members of the society for five years and said the exhibition was an 'exciting' way for the group to show its work.

Mr Williams, aged 59, has five pieces in the display including a scene from Bunkers Hill Wood, in Netherton, a snowdrop walk in Chance Wood, near Kinver and a scene of Clent Hills.

"It takes around 15 hours to create a work," he said. "I go to the location to take photographs to work from. I can then make changes so the scene is more my own.

"A lot of the group enjoy creating works depicting scenes from the region. Because the exhibition is being held at the Red House Glass Cone a lot of people from this area will actually see the works."

Mr Williams added: "The aim of the exhibition is to have a wide variety of different images and styles. It is a great event and we all look forward to showing our work."

At the launch of the exhibition artist J Maule-Ffinch was presented with the Freda Griffiths Trophy for the painting Oxfordshire Street.

Freda Griffiths was one of the founding members of the group and the award was set up in her honour.

Like last year, the group, which has 45 members, is also running a small children's exhibition at the same time.

And, as part of the display, members will be providing simple children's art activities during February half-term.

Cabinet member for environment and culture on Dudley Council, Councillor Hilary Bills said: "The annual exhibition by the Brierley Hill Society of Artists at the Red House Glass Cone is always of a very high standard.

"It is always lovely to see familiar scenes from the region featuring in the show.

"The children's activities were very popular last year and I hope that youngsters drop by the exhibition and try their hand at a small piece of artwork."

The Red House Glass Cone can be visited from Monday to Sunday between 10am and 4pm. Admission is free.

Brierly Hill Society of Artists members David, aged 59, and Dorothy, 67, Williams, from Norton, Stourbridge

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

MORE proof, if it were needed, that the West Midlands is essential to the General Election: Ed Miliband was due to visit, to Cannock to be precise.

We've had two helpings of Ed Balls in four months, with a side of George Osborne in Hatherton, just over the border in South Staffordshire.

It's no surprise, of course. Cannock Chase was the scene of the biggest swing from Labour to the Tories in 2010. It could be something of a bellwether in the early hours of May 8 as to who is on course to win.

The Labour leader was heading there to hold a question and answer with what politicians like to term 'real people'. Hopefully, as it was open to anyone who registered, it was a chance for people to share their concerns and quiz the man who might well be our next Prime Minister. Unfortunately, it was advertised on the Labour party website and not that many would have found it, unless they were one of the lucky few sent a letter.

This is a problem Labour has to address if it is to have a hope of turfing David Cameron out of Number 10.

Deserted

You see, there's a type of person that decides to sign up to attend Labour party events after finding them on Labour party websites or hears about them through other Labour party members. They tend to be people who either support or are interested in the Labour party.

Getting out and meeting people is the only way to win over sceptics. Preaching to the converted is not enough. Any party leader surrounding himself with people already either like-minded or at least very open to what he has to say isn't going to get the desired effect. The people in Cannock who deserted Labour in 2010 aren't just going to turn up and tell Labour they have come back to the fold.

Culture minister Ed Vaizey visited Wolverhampton community radio station WCR FM before heading off to Dudley Zoo. While at the radio station he discussed the fight to bring back the £4 million Barbara Hepworth sculpture Rock Form, removed from the Mander Centre.

MPs Pat McFadden (Labour) and Paul Uppal (Conservative) have both campaigned on it. Mr Vaizey was pleased to hear his fellow Tory Mr Uppal had been so involved.

The Tories have now picked a candidate to hold on to Aldridge-Brownhills for them when Sir Richard Shepherd stands down at the election. The choice of Wendy Morton meant local councillor Marco Longhi missed out. Sir Richard's enviable majority makes it a much better prospect as Mrs Morton makes her third bid for Westminster. Aldridge-Brownhills might be where we find out if there is any such thing as a safe seat.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

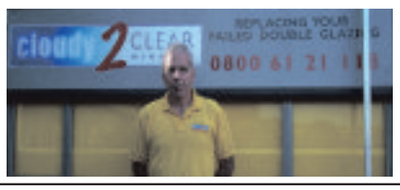
It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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Appeal exceeded all expectations

THE branch committee of Lower Gornal Royal British Legion would like to extend a grateful thanks to all contributors to our annual poppy appeal. Despite the sudden sad demise of our chief organiser, known to many of you, we did exceed all expectations with a magnificent sum of £8,300, an increase over the past few years.

A special thanks to the local business, shops, libraries, schools and churches who contributed in such a magnificent manner, not forgetting the contribution of the local residents, who as always were magnanimous. Our remembrance parade was again a success with a large attendance and we thank all the youth organisations and schools which attended, a special thank you to the police officers who attended from a night shift to ensure our safety.

Although the past year was the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War we must not forget that it was four more years before the fighting ended, the effect on a small village as Lower Gornal must not be forgotten.

STAN HOUGH
Treasurer Lower Gornal RBL

Eyes closed to potholes

WHENEVER I have notified any local council of potholes these 'obstructions' have soon been rectified. But looking at the ever increasing number of them now makes me wonder.

Do employees of the councils travel around with their eyes closed? Do none of them ever have the shock of their cars being almost wrecked after hitting a hole in the road?

P COLE
Kingswinford

Fox hunting is barbaric

THERE is no place in a civilised society for the barbaric sport of fox hunting, or the hunting of deer for that matter.

How can anyone get pleasure from chasing a small terrified animal to exhaustion with a pack of hounds then watching it ripped to pieces is beyond me.

What happens to the poor hounds that get old or of no further use too?

E BARROWS
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Sit and wait at GP's to solve A&E problem

I HAVE seen many letters blaming not being able to get a doctor's appointment for two weeks for the influx of patients at A&E departments in hospitals. But if your condition is serious you can be seen as an emergency patient at your GP surgery anyway and he/she will decide if you need hospital treatment.

If you can wait two weeks for an appointment then you are not ill enough to go to A&E. I wonder how many people have grumbled about the wait only to find that they got better anyway and had to cancel the appointment, or worse still just did not attend.

I have many times attended my appointment to find not a single soul in the huge waiting room, been called straight in and taken a few minutes with the doctor. When I've come out still an empty waiting room. So the doctor then waits for his next patient to arrive, precious minutes that could have been spent dealing with someone under the old system of sit and wait.

I think the two systems could be run side by side in all surgeries with a doctor on duty each day for patients prepared to sit and wait. I know this does happen in walk in centres but there are not enough of them so people are using A&E as walk in centres instead. I also think surgeries should be open at weekends, people are not ill just on weekday.

J JAMES
Wordsley

Lost hours in surgery

I HAVE worked in general practice since 1989, so I feel able to comment in defence of this service.

There is a lot of negative press about how poorly A&E is performing and one of the reasons for increased demand has been blamed on patients not being able to access their GP for an appointment.

At the surgery where I work during December, 40 patients failed to attend for their appointment. This is the equivalent to a GP sitting waiting for seven hours for patients to arrive. What a waste of resources!

We are just one surgery. If you looked nationally imagine what the numbers would add up to!

Patients have to take responsibility too. It is a partnership between the NHS and patients, we both need to play our part.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

March OK, parade not?

WOMBOURNE with the backing of the local community are going to re-instate their carnival but because of insurance they will not be able to have their parade around the village. Apart from the pot holes, I would have thought they could manage to navigate around the village without creating too much of a risk. Perhaps they should have their parade on behalf of the English Defence League or the Unite Against Fascists as there doesn't appear to be problems regarding insurance with their marches!

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Guest gives an insight into Wisdom

Wollaston 'E' TWG

THE January meeting was well attended by 42 members and it was agreed that the Christmas festivities went well. Together with soloist Ann Tomlinson the choir performed at both the group's own and the federation carol services. Proceeds from the guild service will be divided between Birmingham Children's Hospital and the Little Hearts charity.

The Christmas party went very well. Members were joined by friends from neighbouring guilds and entertained by an excellent ukulele band.

It has been decided that the annual subscriptions will remain the same, but the monthly admission fee raised to £1.50.

A ballot was taken at the meeting concerning the future format of the Christmas party. This issue will be discussed further at the next meeting.

A lunch booking for March 18 at the College of Food in Birmingham has been made.

The speaker for the evening, Mike Sampson, gave a wonderful insight into the life of Norman Wisdom. Raffle prizes were won by Joan Brooks and Chris Picken, and the competition prizes went to Jean Latham and Ann Turner.

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on February 10, at St James' Church Hall, Wollaston, when the speaker will be Mr D Cochrane. The competition involves an Australian memento. Non-members are most welcome.

Christmas flowers highlight of meeting

Jeremy Hobbs, vice chairman of Compton Hospice, seated in the chairbed presented by the Ladies from CAMEO

CAMEO Ladies

DURING the last year members were invited by Jeremy Hobbs to visit Compton Hospice and view the chairbed that had been donated with monies from their chosen charity of 2013.

'Christmas Flowers' by Peter Higgs was the highlight of the November meeting. Beautiful arrangements were taken home by lucky raffle ticket winners.

CAMEO Ladies ended a busy and fruitful 2014, with a Christmas celebration dinner at Goodyear's Pavilion and entertainment by Mike Brereton with visits from two Santas.

The first meeting of 2015 will be on Monday, February 2, the AGM, with a talk by Jane Barker representing Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) whereby a cheque will be presented for one of CAMEO's chosen charities of 2014.

Meetings are held at 7.45pm at the Mercure Goldthorn Hotel, Penn Road, Wolverhampton. For further information contact 01902 330727 or 01902 844836.

CAMEO Ladies look forward to another successful year.

Future of society decided

Kingswinford & District Historical Society

MORE than 30 people attended the first meeting of the year, to decide the future of the society.

It was proposed and accepted that the society should continue and the following were duly elected to form a committee:- Joyce Burns, Betty Holding, Ena Jones, Maggie Jones and Ron Julian. It was hoped that some new members would be co-opted onto the committee to ensure that the society continues after its 24th year.

The next meeting at 7.30 pm on February 2 will hear Terry Church speak on radio and television in the 1950s and 60s – entertainment as we knew it.

Meetings, normally on the first Monday in the month, are held at the Kingswinford Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford. Further information from Ron Julian 01384 295848.

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Holocaust survivor tells of seeing mother killed

Holocaust survivor Hannah Lewis in front of a photograph of her mother during the commemoration event in Dudley

HANNAH Lewis was an ordinary little girl — until the day when she watched Nazis shoot her mother dead.

Only in recent years has Hannah, aged 77, felt able to tell her story, to make sure people never forget the horrors unleashed by Nazism.

"I am often asked why I talk about it. It is because what is awful is that this was not carried out by perpetrators in a fit of rage," said Hannah. "It wasn't by people in dispute and it was not by savage people. This was done to a blueprint."

Her story captivated an audience at Dudley College's Great Hall during the town's annual Holocaust commemoration.

Hannah was born in June 1937 in Włodawa, Poland, the much-loved only child of Adam and Haya. She came from a prosperous Jewish family.

Hannah's family were marched to a labour camp called Adampol in 1943.

Hannah's father managed to escape to join the partisans fighting the German invaders but returned to urge his wife to flee with their little daughter. But Haya told him Hannah was too weak with illness to escape. The next day Hannah saw her mother shot by a German killing squad.

"I saw her fall. I saw her blood on the snow. I knew I mustn't scream. I just stood there."

After the war Hannah joined relatives living in London. She married and has four children and eight grandchildren. She has returned twice to Adampol and went to the spot where her mother was murdered. But she did not speak about her experiences until 15 years ago.

"I would like to say I have been able to forgive but I have not," she said. "I have acceptance but that is different."

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New cameras to catch motorway speeders

Driver beware – the new speed cameras will be installed on a stretch of the M6 on the overhead gantries

HARD-TO-SPOT speed cameras are to be installed on a stretch of the M6.

The Highways Agency says the new cameras, part of a £2.1 million national project, will be able to monitor all four lanes including the hard shoulder from overhead gantries. Conventional cameras are trained on one lane.

There are calls for the grey camera housings to be painted yellow like the old Gatso cameras on normal roads.

The Hadecs3 cameras will be installed between junctions 10a for the M54 and 13 Stafford of the M6. The work is part of the £87.5m smart motorways project which will bring in variable speed limits and open the hard shoulder to traffic in busy times.

Yellow

John Spellar, MP for Warley and a former transport minister, said: "When I was transport minister I ordered that speed cameras should be painted a clearly visible yellow. The aim should be to adjust behaviour, not to catch out motorists. It seems these are being sneaked into the managed motorway network.

"I instigated this programme of hard shoulder running which gives a big boost to capacity and better journeys. However, too often speed restrictions are left on when the congestion has passed. Police and Highways Agency should get their act together and stop fleecing the hard pressed motorists."

Hugh Bladon, of the Alliance of British Drivers, said: "The 70mph limit is not a speed that a lot of people bother to observe. It was brought in at a time when the stopping power of cars was a bit like stopping an oil tanker."

A Highways Agency spokesman said: "There are clear signs where cameras are in place."

Meanwhile, mobile speed cameras have accounted for 1,285 fines on Manor Way, the Halesowen bypass.

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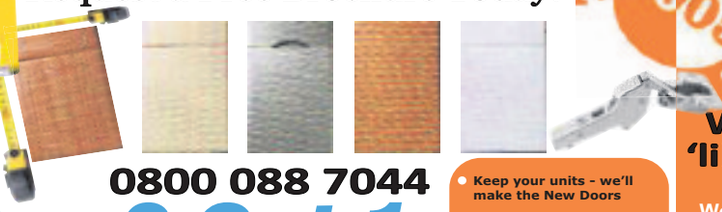

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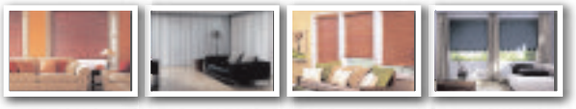

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Family support facts on website

FAMILIES can access information on support and leisure services free through a website.

The Early Help and Family Information Service directory has details on support organisations, leisure facilities and childcare services in the Dudley borough.

It can be accessed by logging on to fis.dudley.gov.uk/fsd or calling (01384) 814398. Residents can also e-mail the team at fis.cs@dudley.gov.uk

Services listed on the directory include those offering advice on financial issues, parenting, breastfeeding, healthy lifestyles, play, schools, bullying and staying safe and much more.

Parents of disabled children will find useful contacts for available services across the borough. There is also detailed information about services and support arrangements available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disability and their families.

Action plan to tackle patient waiting times for blood tests

WAITING times for patients having blood tests in Dudley will be reduced under plans to improve the service.

People have to wait an average of 30 minutes although at busy times it can take up to an hour for them to be seen by a phlebotomist.

Extra staff will be recruited to help meet the demand for the service and the waiting area for patients will be revamped at Russells Hall Hospital. The service is also being relocated within the hospital before March.

The number of blood test work stations and waiting rooms at the Corbett outpatient centre in Stourbridge will be increased.

It's not yet known how many extra phlebotomists will be recruited to take blood tests as the plans are still at an early stage.

Bosses at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust are also looking at offering patients the chance to book appointments and are also considering offering the service for the first time at the Guest outpatient centre in Dudley.

Demand

Paula Clark, chief executive of Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust said: "Due to increasing demand on our phlebotomy service, The Trust is looking into the feasibility of extending the service to help improve waiting times and provide a more comfortable area for patients to wait.

"Because the service is open access — patients do not need to book an appointment — the numbers of patients we see each hour can be unpredictable and the department can get very busy and overcrowded. This is generally for a short period in the morning.

"Our waiting time audits show that patients are often seen within 10 minutes of arrival and the average waiting time is no longer than 30 minutes. During peak times patients can wait up to 60 minutes to be seen by a phlebotomist.

"Our plan is to relocate the service within Russells Hall Hospital, increase the number of blood test work stations and waiting rooms at Corbett Outpatient Centre and consider offering the service at Guest Outpatient Centre. We plan to increase the number of phlebotomists taking blood tests and introduce planned booked appointments for some testing."

Firms urged to back forces day

COMPANIES are being urged to show their support for the armed forces by getting involved in a popular annual event.

Dudley Council is looking for firms in the area to sponsor this year's Armed Forces Day.

The event attracts around 8,000 visitors every year with activities held at Himley Hall and Park.

Sponsorship packages range from £1,000 to £5,000 but packages for lower values are available. Firms wanting to find out more are asked to visit www.dudley.gov.uk/business/advertising or telephone (01384) 815228. Or email promotions@dudley.gov.uk.

Council officials said Armed Forces Day recognised and celebrated both those currently serving and veterans.

This year's Armed Forces Day will be held in June.

Shoe drama puts couple off flying

John, 77, and Hilda Holland, 79, vow to never fly again

A PENSIONER hit on the head by a falling shoe on a plane has vowed she 'won't fly anymore'.

Hilda Holland, aged 79, from Rowley Regis, was badly injured when the footwear dropped from an overhead luggage compartment on the Thomas Cook flight on January 10. Fifty minutes into the flight from Fuerteventura to Birmingham, a fellow passenger opened the locker when the heavy leather suede shoe fell out.

Mrs Holland was treated by two nurses who happened to be on the Thomas Cook Airbus A321-211. The plane made a diversion to Lisbon where Hilda was rushed on a stretcher to hospital and given a CT scan, which showed no permanent damage. Mrs Holland was kept in overnight before she and husband John, 77, were allowed to return to the airport. She said: "I was sitting there and all of a sudden I felt a bang on my head. I blame it on people trying to take too much luggage on the plane because they don't want to pay. We won't fly anymore."

A spokesperson for Thomas Cook said: "We hope Mrs Holland makes a full recovery."

Chamber boss to highlight region

BLACK Country Chamber of Commerce's chief executive says she will use an upcoming conference to highlight the area in national business plans.

The British Chambers of Commerce annual conference will bring together senior politicians and business leaders to agree on a 'Business Plan for Britain', which they hope to pass on to the next Government after May's General Election.

The conference is intended to examine the ways in which Government can build a positive landscape for business. Discussions will centre on developing the talents of the next generation, growing UK exports, devolution to all regions of the UK and the Britain's relationship with the European Union.

Chief executive Margaret Corneby said: "This is an opportunity for Black Country businesses to shape the thinking of decision makers."

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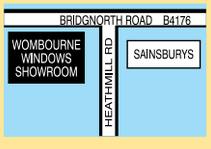

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Sadness for historian as uni drops professor role

HE has inspired generations of people to learn more about where they're from. But now Professor Carl Chinn's role at the University of Birmingham is being dropped.

The director of community history role, believed to be unique in academic circles, is being made redundant. Although the expert on Birmingham and Black Country history will carry on teaching.

The 58-year-old Express & Star columnist has been involved with the university for almost 25 years and has written more than 20 books.

He work focuses on people who were often excluded from formal history: the working classes, particularly the poor, women and ethnic minorities.

His pioneering work was recognised in 2001 when he was awarded the MBE by the Queen for his services to local history and to charities.

The following year he was made Professor of Community History.

He collected an archive as part of a research project called A People's History of Birmingham.

Professor Chinn said: "I'm sad and disappointed that the role of director of Birmingham community history has been made redundant and that no other historian locally will fill that role. I am very grateful to the people of the Black Country and Birmingham.

"Even though it was a role as director of Birmingham community history it expanded over the years to take in the Black Country too. People have shared their lives with me and supported me. That has meant the world to me."

Professor Chinn said he had 'other strings' to his bow including writing books and his column in the Express & Star. As well as teaching at the university he will also continue at Perry Beeches II School in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter. Professor Chinn first started work at the university in October 1990 as junior lecturer in Modern History and community historian in the Department of Modern History.

Carl Chinn seen at Birmingham University in his professor's robes

Since 2007 Professor Chinn worked with summer schools and did school visits in his own time because he wanted more people from families who had previously never had anyone go on to higher education to go to Birmingham University.

Last year he was honoured by the Open University with the award of Master of the University.

The OU's Vice Chancellor, Martin Bean, said it was in recognition of Professor Chinn's 'notable contribution to public service, education and culture in the West Midlands'.

In 2013 Professor Chinn was dropped from BBC WM after 20 years. He had been presenting a Sunday show and historians across the region criticised the corporation for removing part of the 'localism' from radio.

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Motorcyclists ride again in memory of Brandon

Among Brandon's bikers Anthony Winsper, Adrian Henefer, Lorraine Shelley, Rob Millard and, front, Ian Dent

MORE than 250 bikers turned out to honour a 27-year-old cancer victim in a ride from Halesowen to Shropshire and back.

Last January it was Brandon Carter who was centre stage at the rally which saw the bikers travel from Halesowen to a popular bikers' cafe at Quatford, near Bridgnorth, when he fulfilled his dream of riding on a Harley Davidson, months after he had been diagnosed with terminal skin cancer.

Brandon, from Colley Gate, lost his battle with cancer in May but motorcycle enthusiasts were determined to ride again for Brandon and to raise cash for the cancer charity backed by his family. The riders met at Streetbike in Dudley Road on Sunday to embark on the 40-mile round trip.

His uncle David Brenton said: "It was an absolutely fantastic day. I know his mum Carole wanted to thank everybody for remembering her son."

The family have moved closer to their £10,000 target with almost £1,000 from the rally taking their total to £6,800 for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Fighting Skin Cancer Fund.

Memorial ride — Brandon Carter

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New forms blamed for fewer on the voting list

By Adam Burling

MORE than 9,000 people have fallen off the electoral register across the Black Country and South Staffordshire.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin blames a new application system for putting people off.

Nationally almost one million voters have disappeared from the register, particularly in towns and cities with large numbers of students and young people.

The government is overseeing the introduction of 'individual electoral registration' where each potential voter has to fill out a form — instead of one person completing a form for everyone in their household.

In South Staffordshire there has been a drop of 3,488 over the last year, while there are 2,189 fewer people registered in Sandwell.

Some 1,681 people have fallen off the register in Cannock Chase, with 597 in Walsall, 551 in Dudley and 539 in Wolverhampton.

In total the number registered across all areas has gone from 1,008,632 to 999,587.

Mr Austin is calling for a drive to get more people signed up ahead of the General Election, saying he is concerned that thousands of people will not be eligible to vote in May as they are not on the register.

Scandal

He said: "It's a scandal that thousands of people across the Black Country have lost their chance to vote since the introduction of this system. The Government must do much more to tackle the problems caused by these rushed reforms instead of sitting idle.

"I'll be doing everything I can to make sure everyone in Dudley is signed up and ready to cast their vote in May."

But the Government insists the process is being made simpler by scrapping the 'outdated head of household' registration system.

Bosses say the new system is able to verify that everyone on the register is who they say they are – ensuring elections are fair.

Minister of State at the cabinet Office Greg Clark said: "It is only right that in a country which has such a long and proud history of democratic participation, we ensure that we have an electoral registration system fit for the 21st century.

"These changes ensure that individuals register securely and enable them to register in the simplest possible way."

For information on how to register to vote visit the website www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Concerns over mental health care support

A BRANCH of a mental health charity supporting dozens of people across Dudley borough will close with six people facing redundancy.

People whose relatives receive support from the charity say they fear having no care support.

Family Care Trust runs a community project from a base in Parsons Street, Dudley, for around 50 people and their families. Among the services it provides are social gatherings for people with a range of mental health conditions and support for carers in their own homes

Around 30 people gathered to discuss their concerns for the future when the charity closes on January 31.

Campaigners said they were concerned to only find out the about the closure days before the closure. Ken Jeffries, aged 60, of John Corbett Drive, Amblecote, a full time carer for his wife Jackie, 53, said: "We were sad to hear it was closing as she has friends here and it has been a big help.

"It is disgusting that the senior people from the trust have not come down here to tell us anything."

Family Care Trust chief executive Phil Carpenter said it was 'no longer financially viable' to run its services in the borough.

He said the organisation had given notice three months ago to Dudley Council and they were also upset that alternatives had yet to be found for the service users.

CD and show to help window campaign

Black Country radio host Billy Spake Mon is organising a concert and has launched a CD towards a memorial

BLACK Country musicians perform on a new album created to help save a church's stained-glass window remembering the fallen from the First World War.

Poet, author and broadcaster Billy Spake Mon has brought the project together ahead of hosting a fundraising concert next month. He hopes to be able to raise money through the CD and show towards the relocation of the window from St Michael and All Angels Church, in Langley Green, which is being redeveloped, to the nearby Zion United Reformed Church in a £10,000 project.

Billy, real name Brian Dakin, asked musicians to get involved through his Omma n Chain Show on Black Country Community Radio.

To celebrate the launch there will be a concert at the Zion Church Hall, in Langley Green Road, Langley, on February 7 at 7.30pm.Tickets cost £5, as does the CD. Email b.dakin@aston.ac.uk or write to him at 19 Hawfield Road, Tividale, B69 1LG.

Broader range of sessions to boost fitness

A NEW programme of adult fitness sessions have been launched at Dudley Leisure Centre for those who want to get fitter in 2015.

Zumba, which offers aerobic exercise with a Latin twist, takes place every Monday at 10am, Tuesday at 9.30am and Thursday at 5.30pm and 7pm.

Yoga

People who want to push themselves and give fitness levels a challenge can try the boot camp classes on Thursday at 5.30pm, Saturday at 7.45am and Sunday at 10am.

Those who want to stretch and tone can benefit from yoga sessions every Monday at 7.15pm and Tuesday at 1.30pm and 6pm as well as the abdominal workout session abs box every Friday at 10.45am and 5.30pm.

Several other classes on also on offer at the centre. These include spinning, dance aerobics, aquafit, functional fitness, mixed keep fit, body tone, pump and tone, pure pump, legs bums and tums and circuit training.

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Baggies boss facing toughest ever challenge

Tony Pulis and daughter Stephanie cycled the 960 miles from John O'Groats to Land's End for charity

HE has cycled from John O'Groats to Land's End and scaled Mount Kilimanjaro but West Bromwich Albion head coach Tony Pulis is preparing for his toughest-ever challenge. And there won't be a football in sight.

After the Premier League season draws to a close in May, Tony will be taking to the water to row 450 miles from Tower Bridge in London to the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

He will be part of a team of fundraisers taking on the mammoth Tower to Tower mission in aid of Stoke's Donna Louise Children's Hospice Trust.

The Baggies boss isn't a stranger to fund-raising, having run the London Marathon in 2009 and successfully climbed to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro with Stoke comedian Nick Hancock in 2010.

Daughter

Two years later, the pair, along with Tony's daughter Stephanie, cycled 960 miles from John O'Groats to Land's End.

Tony, who is a long-time supporter of the hospice from his seven-year spell managing Stoke City, admitted that he couldn't say no to the charity when they asked for his help with their latest fundraising bid.

"Every year for the last six or seven years I have always done something for the Donna Louise Hospice," he said. "I didn't do anything last year when I was at Crystal Palace, but this year they rang me up and said 'listen we've got a big one coming up'.

"I have got an enormous association with Stoke-on-Trent and with the hospice and I couldn't say no. I have done two marathons, Kilimanjaro, John O'Groats to Lands End on a bike, but I have never done anything on the sea. It's a challenge."

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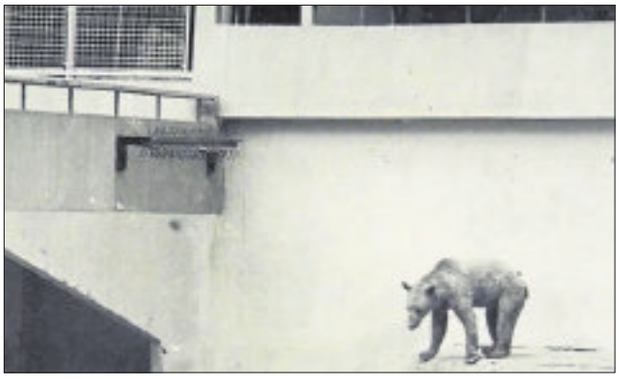
Drownie's name lives on in the ravine at Dudley Zoo



Tina – a female member of Dudley Zoo's bear family – in her enclosure

The bears in their 1930s Tecton home, which dates back to when the zoo opened

Workers found Tina's named ravine during restoration

Mr Tumper's name still daubed above his enclosure

Bear facts of life in zoo ravine uncovered during restoration

THEY were once star attractions, delighting young and old alike, but their names had been forgotten until now.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Lee Watton

Engineers revamping Dudley Zoo's bear ravine were surprised to discover the names of bears formerly housed at the building still painted over their den doors.

The discovery was made as workers began clearing out the den area at the base of the famous Tecton enclosure.

The names of the bears – Tina, Drownie and Mr Tumper – are daubed in paint above the metal den doors. All three would have lived within the enclosure and been a draw for visitors to the attraction.

Workers also discovered a steel-spiked roller used as a security measure on the lower cantilevered platform to prevent the animals reaching visitors.

It is not the first time long-hidden parts of the attraction's long history have been uncovered by an ongoing restoration project. Construction supervisor Carlo Diponio said the latest find made the history of the building 'come even more alive'.

"The den doors are still in great condition, although the dens themselves are not suitable for modern day animal husbandry," he said. "The roller just needs cleaning up and galvanising.

"It was a real surprise to discover the names of some of the bears who once lived there still clearly painted on the doors."

Zoo experts said it was not known when these particular bears lived at the attraction.

Dr David Beeston, registrar and research co-ordinator at the zoo, said the ravine was last used to house Himalayan brown bears in the late 1970s.

And bosses have confirmed the discovered names will be retained – remaining part of the attraction in future. Work on the bear ravine is being carried out as part of the second phase of a £1.15 million project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Earlier work has seen the iconic zoo entrance and the Safari Shop restored. Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock said restoration work would include adding a toughened piece of glass into the floor so visitors could view the dens underneath.

The steel roller will also be restored to its original position.

Balcony

Mr Suddock said: "We are hoping to keep an animal species on the lower level, which incorporates the original bear pit, but the dens won't be in use.

"By putting a clear glass panel in the floor of the balcony where visitors will be able to access it will allow them to see the dens below and spot the bear names for themselves."

Previous finds during the restoration include the discovery of an advertisement for Black Country sweet company Teddy Gray's rock. Workers removing paint on one of the old sweet kiosks made the find.

The advertisement dated back to 1937, when the zoo first opened to the public.

And workers at the bear ravine also previously came across an enamel plaque, dating from the 1950s, on the pit wall.

Both the kiosk and bear ravine are 1930s Tectons and date back to when the zoo first opened. The zoo has the world's single largest collection of Tecton buildings, 12 listed structures around the site intended for both animal and visitor use.

They were built by Berthold Lubetkin's Tecton Group. The ravine is considered by experts to be the most impressive Tecton within the collection, according to bosses at the attraction.

Workers have put up £15,000 of scaffolding around the bear ravine structure while work takes place.

This includes repairs and matching colours to the original paintwork. Cleaning of the building is costing £48,000.

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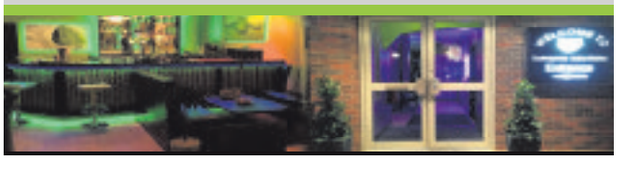

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MP fears impact of job cuts at hospital

AN MP has urged Government ministers to step in to prevent job losses at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital

By Rob Cox

In a passionate House of Commons speech Dudley North MP Ian Austin said the proposed cutting of 400 jobs at Russells Hall Hospital over the two years would have a significant impact on quality of care.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the hospital, is holding talks with staff and has opened a two-phased redundancy plan.

Speaking in a debate on the NHS, Labour MP Mr Austin said: "Everyone agrees that savings should first be sought among management and back office functions but the truth is even if they sacked every manager it wouldn't even come close to the sort of savings the hospital needs to make. Instead, making redundancies could affect theatre staff, radiologists, staff dealing with blood tests and even some midwives will be able to apply for redundancy.

"The trust says it will do everything it can to protect the service patients receive but no-one can pretend our hospital can lose almost one in 10 of its workforce without having a real impact on frontline patient care."

He told MPs that hundreds of residents had responded to his survey with 98 per cent saying they thought care at the hospital will deteriorate if job cuts go ahead.

While praising staff for battling "heroically" over Christmas, he said pressures on resources were increasing. He added: "In common with other NHS trusts the Dudley group is required to make efficiency savings of four per cent a year, which equates to £12 million each year. At the same time the hospital is facing costs pressures caused by increased demands on emergency services and providing seven day services."

Door into the past is found at historic park

Walled garden project leader Mick Freer takes a look at the bricked up door in Leasowes Park, Halesowen

A RENOVATION project at a historic walled garden has unearthed some hidden gems, including doorways dating back to the 18th century.

Members of the Halesowen Abbey Trust are carrying out a £500,000 project to restore the derelict site at the Grade I listed Leasowes Park to its former glory.

The doors, which date to 1776, were discovered while the site was being cleared. Project leader Mick Freer said they plan to restore the doorways.

Squeaky Joe is king again

THE Knights who say Ni are coming back to Birmingham. Spamalot, the hit West End show based on movie Monty Python and the Holy Grail, will be staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from February 2 to 7. Playing King Arthur will be squeaky-voiced comic Joe Pasquale.

Woman is jailed after two dogs left starving

A PET owner from Halesowen has been jailed for five months after leaving her two dogs starving, one dying as a result.

Jodi Russell, from Hillwood Road, was sentenced at Dudley Magistrates Court after magistrate Neville Jinks described the animal cruelty case as "one of the worst cases of animal cruelty this court has seen for a very long time".

The 28-year-old was also given a lifetime ban from looking after animals or being associated with them in any way.

Jailed — Jodi Russell

Russell, a mother of four, was found guilty of two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to the dogs and four charges of failing in her duty as an owner at Dudley Magistrates' Court.

Russell will serve a 20-week sentence for the offences, to run concurrently.

The court heard the dogs were described as 'lifeless' and given the lowest possible condition ratings by vets after they were seized from Russell's former home in Maple Road fourteen months ago.

One of the dogs, named Storm, was described as the thinnest a vet had ever seen and died within 24 hours. The other survived and was later re-homed.

The court heard how RSPCA charity inspector Steven Morrell found the dogs in a starving state in urine-soaked cages in the living room of Russell's home while children played around them.

Mr Daryll Foster, defending, said Russell was suffering emotionally when she had the dogs, following the death of her father and after splitting up with her partner.

He said: "Miss Russell, in hindsight, now accepts that she has done wrong."

Olympic seats for Tividale

With seats from the Olympic Stadium are Tividale FC club treasurer Richard Harrison, left, and first team manager Ian Long, at Packwood Road

TIVIDALE Football Club's battle to get their ground up to league standard has been helped by the arrival of a batch of seats from London's Olympic Stadium.

In the coming weeks a total of 190 yellow plastic seats are set to be fitted into the main stand at The Beeches ground, as the club embarks on a race against time to improve facilities at the stadium.

Tividale, who currently sit 14th in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League First Division South, have been told by league bosses they need to upgrade the ground by the end of March.

This includes fitting new seating in the New Birmingham Road stand as part of an increase in ground capacity to 1,300. An army of volunteers have already helped to install new turnstiles and changing rooms at the ground on Packwood Road.

A new standing area is planned for the Birch Terrace part of the stadium ahead of the start of the 2015/16 campaign.

Treasurer Richard Harrison said Tividale's secretary Leon Murray contacted bosses at the Olympic Stadium when he found out they were offloading yellow seats, a match for their mainly yellow strip.

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The clinic's prosthetics, prescribed and crafted on premises at his multi-disciplined dental practice in Dudley have found satisfied patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal.

Others wishing to resolve long-term denture issues have travelled from Dorset, the Isle of Anglesey, the Isle of Skye and London.

Over the last decade the Denture Clinic, based in North Street, has encountered some heart-rending accounts of how ill-fitting teeth have dislocated lives "but thankfully it has never failed to deliver a successful clinical solution," says principal Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353.

"Prosthetics have been the butt of every comedian's joke, but things are changing. There's no reason for anyone to put up with uncomfortable and unsightly dentures any more and talking about them is getting easier.

"It wasn't that long ago that an amalgamation between glamour and dentures was unheard of, but these unlikely descriptive bedfellows are now increasingly being fused together at our clinics in Dudley, Wolverhampton, Kidderminster and Dorridge," adds Steven.

Youthful, engaging smile

Evangelical about what new-generation denture prescriptions can achieve, Steven adds: "Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients, reshaping sunken cheeks and pinched lips."

The palette of solutions to deliver a more youthful, engaging smile has never been so great, with traditional, handmade-on-the-premises prosthetics; suction diaphragm dentures; and implant-retained over-dentures.

"We have often been privileged to transform looks – and lives – providing teeth that not only are aesthetically pleasing and hugely functional, but successfully support facial structures just like real teeth.

"Can dentures ever be glamorous? Emphatically, yes," he says.

Strident advances in technology, improved materials and revised clinical procedures are all helping to "drive the denture revolution forward and it's easy to add a real sense of natural-looking glamour to a clinical outcomes," he says.

By far the most sustainable and predictable results are found in implant-retained over-dentures, where permanently fixed implanted 'studs' in the jaw secure the prosthetic.

"For- those with the right bone density, over-dentures guarantee stability," adds Steven.

Implants, however, are not suitable for all and a cutting-edge suction valve device that holds prosthetics in position is another popular option.

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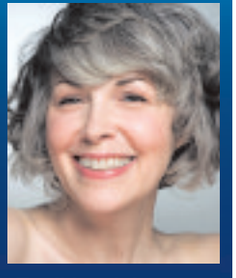
Fastidious about quality

"For the right patient it can deliver excellent denture retainer qualities without the invasive procedures required for implant work, he adds."

Quality, handcrafted traditional dentures remain hugely popular. "Our on-premises manufacturing allows us to be fastidious about quality. We use only the best of materials and we have mature, skilled team of technicians that supports us.

"The possibilities with good looking, functional prosthetics still continue to surprise us," says Steven.

Solutions at a glance



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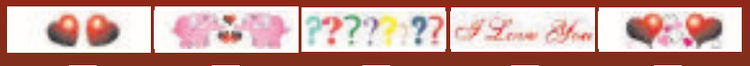

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Tories packing a punch says minister on visit

Seconds out — Minister Francis Maude at Priory Boxing Club in Dudley with Kaden Crompton, aged 7, from Dudley

A GOVERNMENT minister has insisted the Tories can pack a punch in the Black Country at the General Election in May.

Cabinet Office Minister Francis Maude was speaking during a visit to Priory Park Boxing Club in Dudley, which recently received £50,000 Sport England funding. That was added to a £20,000 donation from businessman Roy Richardson and other cash brought in through fundraising.

Mr Maude brushed off suggestions his party was lagging behind UKIP as well as Labour in the Dudley North constituency that he was visiting — a key Black Country marginal seat. It is currently held by Labour's Ian Austin.

Mr Maude said: "We have a fantastic candidate here who is working incredibly hard and has a chance of winning. It was very close last time.

"At the election people have two choices for Prime Minister, David Cameron and Ed Miliband, and most people have a strong preference for David Cameron because of the economic security he has created. It's confidence over chaos."

Mr Maude praised boxing club bosses for managing to raise the bulk of the cash themselves.

The club, which has produced champions, has around 100 children on its waiting list. The club's extension is expected to open within months.

Mr Maude said: "It's a fantastic project. These kind of organisations make such a difference to communities. It gives the kids a purpose and something to aim for, this club has produced some serious boxers so there are lots of role models."

Mr Maude also visited Dudley Council for Voluntary Service and the University of Wolverhampton.

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Deadly weapons are taken off the streets

THIS image shows the terrifying array of deadly weapons that have been taken off the streets in the Black Country.

They were handed in in Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton, as part of an amnesty.

More than 150 knives, guns and knuckle-dusters have been retrieved by police with bins provided by the Word4Weapons charity.

Images of the haul were released ahead of the launch of a new bin in Aston, Birmingham.

They were all handed in at bins provided by the charity in Wolverhampton, Sparkbrook, Edgbaston, Hockley, Lozells and Erdington.

The full haul includes 153 knives, a gun, replica firearm, live round of ammunition and two knuckle-dusters.

The Edgbaston bin was unveiled in July by the parents of tragic schoolgirl Christina Edkins, Kathleen and Jason, near to where the 16-year-old was killed in March 2013.

Attacked

The teenager was fatally stabbed in the chest as she sat on the No 9 bus while travelling to Leasowes High School in Halesowen. Christina was attacked by paranoid schizophrenic Phillip Simelane, 23, from Walsall, who was later detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, David Jamieson, said: "This latest bin is adding to several installed last year that have more than proven their worth.

"Some of the weapons we have found deposited in the bins were clearly produced to inflict serious injuries including two firearms, a knuckle duster and an assortment of flick knives."Some of other items such as kitchen knives, saw blades and a syringe have been safely disposed of in the bins."'

Contents of the Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton bin

Comment on town plans

RESIDENTS are being invited to look over plans which will shape the future of Dudley town centre.

Options for schemes to improve the town, based on public consultation last year, will be available for comment until February 27. This is the last chance to comment on the plan before the final preparations are made. Once adopted it will be a planning document which will shape the development of the town centre up until 2026.

Regeneration boss Councillor Judy Foster said: "The consultation last year was very successful and has helped shape plans for Dudley town centre over the next 10 years, demonstrating our commitment to being a community led council. We want to share the preferred options with people so they can add their final comments."

See http://goo.gl/6l9DQe and hard copies will be in Dudley Library, Dudley Council Plus and the Council House in Priory Road.

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New releases on DVD and Blu-ray

IF you missed out on some of the best recent TV shows there is a chance to catch up via the latest DVD and Blu-ray releases.

Hard-hitting BBC drama The Missing (15) stars James Nesbitt and Frances O'Connor as the frantic parents of five-year-old boy who goes missing on a French holiday, which leads to a gripping and heart-breaking quest. It is available for DVD and Blu-ray.

The first three series of the US remake of dark Danish thriller The Killing (15), with Mireille Enos as detective Sarah Lindon investigating a teenager's murder, is now available as a box set on DVD and Blu-ray. The fourth series was recently on Netflix.

History buffs may enjoy two new titles.

Britain's Bloodiest Dynasty The Plantagenets (15), shows actual medieval history is just as full of feuding families, violence and betrayal as a series of Game of Thrones. Dan Snow's docu-drama was originally shown on Channel 5. It's now out on DVD.

Britain has some of the finest castles in the world, largely thanks to those Normans and Plantagenets,. In BBC documentary Secrets Of The Castle time travelling historian Ruth Goodman joins archaeologists Peter Ginn and Tom Pinforld to learn the skills of the castle builders. They join an ambitious project to build a medieval style castle from scratch at Guedelon in France. It is available on DVD.

Ballet springs into action after £2.7m revamp of HQ

BIRMINGHAM Royal Ballet, is springing back into action for 2015 following the £2.7 million revamp of its HQ in the city.

The company presents An Evening of Music and Dance at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Saturday.

BRB director David Bintley will compere the event which will include classical favourites from the Royal Ballet Sinfonia plus scenes from the company's repertoire.

These will include Momoko Hirata as Swanilda in Coppélia, Céline Gittens as Odile in Swan Lake with Tyrone Singleton as The Prince, and Elisha Willis as Cinderella. There will also be the world premiere of a new ballet, Matryoshka, from BRB's Ruth Brill.

Dancers Miki Mizutani and Tzu-Chao Chou rehearse

Strictly

BRB then launches its season at Birmingham Hippodrome with Moving Stateside, featuring three American ballets, on February 18 and Coppélia from February 24.

Strictly Come Dancing judge and former Royal Ballet star Darcey Bussell, in her capacity as President of Birmingham Royal Ballet's Campaign for the Future, was among guests who last week got a tour of the company's refurbished building behind the Hippodrome, which has three state-of-the-art dance studios.

Ms Bussell said: "The new facilities will allow Birmingham Royal Ballet to welcome the community, nurture the talent of the future and maintain their position at the forefront of both British and international dance."

It also sends its professionals into schools to introduce ballet to youngsters.

BRB director David Bintley said that the studios meant nothing unless they were filled with dancers, particularly young people.

He added: "What we now have in this building is a wonderful platform to make that next step."

New 'king' and Queen still reign

Queen and Adam Lambert, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham

AFTER all these years Queen still reign supreme. And the ecstatic fans at the packed Birmingham Barclaycard Arena were more than happy to be their loyal subjects as they brought the house down.

It was a sensational mix of the new 'king' Adam Lambert and long-time musicians still at the top of their game, Brian May and Roger Taylor, and brilliant interaction with the fans who were in awe throughout.

Lambert's ludicrously good vocal talents went perfectly with Queen's music. Since his spectacular performance with Queen on New Year's Eve at London's 02, music fans and critics Lambert have raved about him and after performances in Glasgow and Newcastle the shows have been hailed as 'an all-guns-blazing rock machine'.

And the Arena crowd echoed those sentiments as they clapped and sang along to one favourite after another, opening with One Vision and later the very appropriate We Will Rock You – and they did, Don't Stop Me Now – why would we want to? And We Are The Champions – no doubt about that! They saved that one for the end with the fans up on their feet. And there was of course the song crowned the UK's favourite Number One - Bohemian Rhapsody.

Adam Lambert and Brian May – terrific interaction with the fans

In fact it was Lambert's own virtual duet with Freddie Mercury, who appeared on a large screen to huge cheers from the crowd, on Bohemian Rhapsody that truly showed how well his vocals compete with the great man himself.

Lambert paid tribute to 'the wonderful Freddie Mercury' by saying how much he had inspired him from an early age.

And in another poignant moment Roger Taylor sang These Are The Days Of Our Lives… as old images of the band flashed up on screen

With imagery of Mercury it was a fitting tribute to the man himself. No-one will ever be able to replace him but there's currently no-one else who could better fill his shoes.

SUE ATTWATER

Toyah getting up close and acoustic

PUNK princess, TV presenter and actress Toyah brings her Acoustic Up Close and Personal show to Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Thursday, February 5.

Birmingham's Toyah Willcox appeared in the Derek Jarman movies Jubilee and his surreal take on The Tempest, and mod favourite Quadrophenia, before her music career took over in the 1980s with hits including It's A Mystery and I Want To Be Free. As a TV presenter she has presented both The Good Sex Guide Late and Songs Of Praise!

There will be mirth as well as music with support from the Black Country's rising comedy star Jonny Cole and local rocker Steve Mercy. Call the box office on 01902 401211.

Lowings is back on home patch

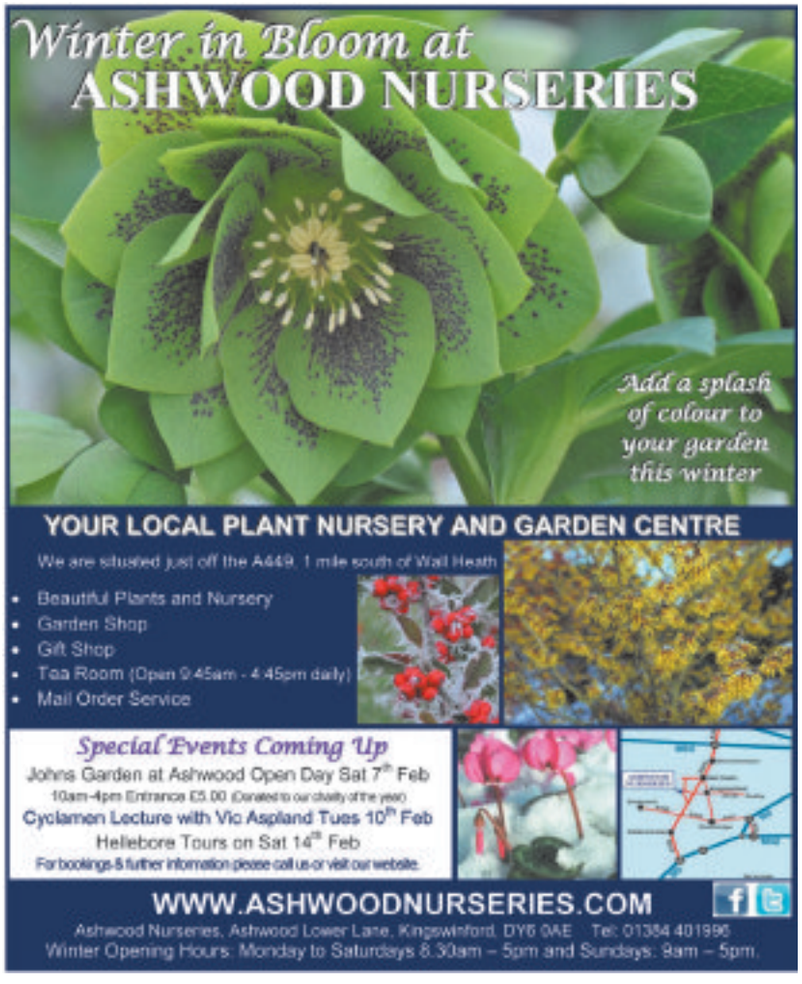
KIM Lowings from Stourbridge has, with The Greenwood which is made up of Andrew Lowings, Tim Rogers and Dave Sutherland, established herself as a respected musician on the folk circuit with her strong and crystal clear singing.

She also plays a mean Appalachian dulcimer.

The band will be on their home patch on Friday January 30 when they play at The Woodman Folk Club which meets at the Marina, Kingswinford.

Tickets are £6 for members and £1 more for non-members.

The show starts at 8.30pm.



CHOICE

Ted Danson

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Channel 5, 10pm)
Medical marijuana dispensary owner Lloyd Bryant's phone suddenly rings and he is played a video of his wife and children, bound and gagged. Following instructions via text message, he puts money into a duffle bag and hands it to a nervous-looking customer, who raises the suspicion of the store's security guard, and is shot dead. DB and the team learn that the jittery woman was a cancer patient named Allison Ball, who recently received a video of her brother Stuart, who had also been abducted. Crime drama, starring Ted Danson, Elisabeth Shue, George Eads, Jorja Fox, Eric Szmanda, Robert David Hall, Wallace Langham, Marc Vann, David Berman and Richard Speight Jr.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.30 Now You See It. The best and worst of the magic world, featuring a man who disguises himself as an armchair and strange happenings in a chip shop, as well as a few tricks going wrong.

7.00 The Voice UK. The competition forges ahead with the fourth round of the blind auditions and the continuing campaigns by coaches Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson and Rita Ora to build a 12-strong team. As ever, the fun starts whenever more than one coach wants the same singer and argue why they would make the best mentor.

8.30 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants pick a selection of dream prizes to make up their personal wish lists, all of which have a connection to their shared history together. They then face categories of questions in an attempt to win their chosen items.

9.20 Casualty. A single father and his two teenage children are brought in after a car crash, but the dad only seems concerned about his daughter, leaving his son feeling neglected. Big Mac's money worries lead him to a pawn shop – where he encounters a window cleaner who appears to have been stabbed – and a man is admitted with abdominal pain, although the doctors become suspicious when they can find nothing wrong with the patient. A determined Connie throws herself into work after losing Grace, Tess returns to the department and Honey is surprised when Ethan gives her the cold shoulder – especially after they had been getting so close.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day; National Lottery Update.

12.00 The Football League Show. **1.20 Film:** Stark Raving Mad. (2002) **2.55** Weather for the Week Ahead. **3.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 Film: Bitter Victory. (1957) **8.25** Live Tennis: Australian Open Women's Final. **11.30** Animal Park. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.45** Hollywood Greats. (R) **1.25 Film:** Lust for Life. (1956) Biopic of Van Gogh, starring Kirk Douglas. **3.25 Film:** Hidalgo. (2004) Period adventure, with Viggo Mortensen. **5.30** The Great British Sewing Bee – Class of 2014. (R)

6.30 Flog It! Experts Kate Bateman and David Barby search for antiques that can be sold for a profit in Colchester, Essex, where finds include boxes of old toy cars and an art deco item. Presenter Paul Martin tracks down the last remaining practitioner of an ancient craft that once lifted people out of poverty.

7.30 Attenborough's Paradise Birds. Among David Attenborough's life-long passions are birds of paradise, which he has tracked all over the jungles of New Guinea to film their beautiful and often bizarre displays. In this documentary, he examines how and why these creatures have captivated explorers, naturalists, artists, film-makers and even royalty, investigating the myths surrounding their discovery 500 years ago, the latest extraordinary behaviour captured on camera and the science behind their beauty. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. The platoon takes part in an exercise with the regular army and everything goes well – until Mainwaring assumes the role of an enemy agent on the run. (R)

9.00 QI. Quiz with a difference, in which the questions are so difficult points are awarded for the answers host Stephen Fry finds most interesting.

9.30 The Secret World of Lewis Carroll. Martha Kearney explores the life and work of the author of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, and examines what lies behind the book's enduring appeal to adults and children alike.

10.30 Film: Ginger & Rosa. (2012) Premiere. Drama, starring Elle Fanning and Alice Englert.

11.55 Film: The Tempest. (2010) A sorceress plans revenge on her brother for sending her into exile when a storm strands him on her island home. Shakespearean fantasy, starring Helen Mirren.

1.40 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** The Undriveables. (R) **2.10** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.10** Doc Martin. (R) **4.10** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **5.10** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.20** ITV News; Weather. **5.30** You've Been Framed! A-Z of Animals. (R)

6.30 Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. A sales assistant, a senior manager of a tanning salon chain, a children's singing tutor, a mother and a student impersonate famous singers as they vie for a place in the final.

7.30 Planet's Got Talent. Featuring a group of flexible Chinese men, a six-year-old dancer, a cowboy with impressive rope skills and a contestant who extinguishes candles by squirting water from his eyes.

8.05 Take Me Out. Dancer Rob from London, barman Ryan from Leicester, security guard Karl from Dublin and busker Jamie from Kent vie for the attentions of 30 single women, intent on capturing their interest and securing a date. However, first they must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Host Paddy McGuinness monitors their progress and reviews the dating action from last week's couples on the Isle of Fernandos.

9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Great British Bake Off presenters Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins, veteran actress Diana Rigg and Benidorm star Johnny Vegas.

10.25 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Film: The Shawshank Redemption. (1994) A banker wrongly jailed for his wife's murder forms an extraordinary friendship with a fellow inmate over the course of their sentences. Drama, with Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman.

1.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Trans World Sport. **7.00** Killarney Adventure Race. **7.25** Itera Expedition Race. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** The King of Queens. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** Speed with Guy Martin. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park, Ffos Las and Wetherby. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **5.30** The Simpsons. (R)

6.00 The Simpsons. Bart tracks down a former student after Groundskeeper Willie reveals that he pulled off the "ultimate prank", and Marge starts shopping at a natural foods store. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Restoration Man. After living in a bungalow for 25 years, Yorkshire couple Carol and Majid Nadry embark on an ambitious midlife adventure – buying a water tower to turn into a five-storey home. As they battle with the huge rusting tank on top of the building, they encounter devastating legal problems, and unexpected costs hit their budget. However, the pair refuse to give up on their mission to create a one-off design, and architect George Clarke encourages them to see their daunting challenge through, while detailing the seismic changes in architectural history that this structure's humble appearance conceals. (R)

8.00 The World's Weirdest Weather. New series. Bizarre climatic conditions, including a vast cave system with its own weather, plus glow-in-the-dark waves, an upside-down rainbow and "spider lightning".

9.00 Film: Ted. (2012) Premiere. A lonely boy makes a wish at Christmas that his teddy bear will come to life, which is magically granted. The boy grows up to become a directionless slacker, with the foul-mouthed living toy still his inseparable friend – but his girlfriend thinks it is time for him to grow up. Comedy, starring Mark Wahlberg and Mila Kunis.

11.10 Film: Your Highness. (2011) Fantasy comedy, with Danny McBride.

1.05 The Last Leg. (R) **2.00 Film:** Prizzi's Honor. (1985) **4.10** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Access. **10.45** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **11.45** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.40** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.40** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **2.40 Film:** Columbo: A Friend in Deed. (1974) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **4.35 Film:** Columbo: A Deadly State of Mind. (1975) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk.

6.10 NCIS. A commander who knows the location of a shipment of nuclear fuel rods is abducted, and the team is called in to try to identify the kidnapper. Guest starring Zac Efron. (R)

7.00 NCIS. The wives of two marines are murdered, and although Gibbs initially suspects they were victims of domestic violence, subsequent developments suggest the case may involve professional killers who already have their next victim in mind. Drama, starring Mark Harmon and Cote de Pablo. (R)

7.55 NCIS. The team suspects a desperate marine may have faked his own death with the help of a friend and blown up an ambulance in a botched attempt to cover all traces of the subterfuge. (R)

8.50 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. Catching up with the celebrities as they react to Friday night's eviction, revealing how the departure has affected the remaining contestants – and whether the outcome of the public vote has anyone else fearing for their place in the competition.

10.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. The family of the owner of a medical marijuana dispensary are held hostage, but the investigation is made harder when a potential witness is killed by a security guard.

10.55 Law & Order. Lupo and Green embark on their first official case together – investigating a kidnapping that involved the murder of a housekeeper and occurred during a city-wide blackout.

11.50 Criminals: Caught on Camera. Nick Wallis discovers how CCTV and technological advances are helping to tackle criminals exhibiting a complete disregard for the safety of others while at the wheel of a vehicle. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **8.00** Top Gear **9.00 Film:** Blades of Glory (2007) **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News **11.00** Family Guy **2.00** Crims **2.30** South Side Story **3.00** Life Is Toff **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 The First World War from Above **8.00** Bright Lights, Brilliant Minds: A Tale of Three Cities **9.00** Spiral **10.50** Charlie Brooker's Weekly Wipe **11.20** Pop Charts Britannia: 60 Years of the Top 10 **12.50** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.40** Play it Loud: The Story of the Marshall Amp **2.40** Bright Lights, Brilliant Minds: A Tale of Three Cities **3.40** Close

ITV2
11.40 Megan Trainor: The Hot Desk **11.50** The Cube: Celebrity Special **12.55 Film:** Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco (1996) **2.40 Film:** Honey (2003) **4.35 Film:** E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) **6.50 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **9.20** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.05 Film:** Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **11.55** Celebrity Juice: The Special Special **12.55** Fake Reaction **1.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Life's Funniest Moments **2.45** McBusted: The Hot Desk **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.00 A Touch of Frost **2.00** Wycliffe **3.05 Film:** George and Mildred: The Movie (1980) **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Lewis **12.05** A Touch of Frost **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.40 World Rally Championship Highlights **12.45** Darts: The Masters Live **5.00** Storage Wars **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **6.55** UEFA Champions League Hat-Trick Heroes **7.00** Darts: The Masters Live **11.00** Africa Cup of Nations Highlights **12.00 Film:** The Quest (1996) **2.00** Hell on Wheels **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 2 Broke Girls **11.30** New Girl **12.30** Melissa & Joey **1.30** How I Met Your Mother **2.30** Bad(ish) Robots **3.30** Rude(ish) Tube **4.30** Troy **5.35** The 100 **6.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Terminator Salvation (2009) **11.15** The Inbetweeners **12.20** 2 Broke Girls **12.55** New Girl **1.25** How I Met Your Mother **2.20** Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23 **3.05** Suburgatory **3.50** Charmed **4.35** Bad(ish) Robots **5.00** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4
11.00 The Mistress of Spices (2005) **1.00** The Simpsons Movie (2007) **2.55** The Longest Day (1962) **6.30** Stardust (2007) **9.00** The American (2010) **11.05** Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009) **12.50** 30 Days of Night (2007) **3.15** Close

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Warwick and Warwick, the leading stamp, coin and collectables auctioneers, will be visiting your area shortly and look forward to meeting you at:
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CHOICE

Davina McCall

The Jump (Channel 4, 7pm)
New series. Return of the celebrity-packed winter-sport competition, presented by Davina McCall. Former Pussycat Doll Ashley Roberts, Jackass daredevil Steve-O, model Jodie Kidd, Made in Chelsea star Louise Thompson, ex-England rugby captain Mike Tindall, philanthropist Heather Mills, socialite Victoria Hervey, former JLS member JB Gill, singer-presenter Stacey Solomon, Paralympic cyclist Jon-Allan Butterworth, Richard and Judy's daughter Chloe Madeley, dancer Louie Spence, Gogglebox favourite Dom Parker, heptathlete Louise Hazel, A Question of Sport team captain Phil Tufnell and reality TV's Joey Essex are the 16 familiar faces flying to the Austrian Alps for this year's contest.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.00** Your Home in Their Hands. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 Animals in Love. Liz Bonnin presents the first of two programmes exploring animal relationships, finding out how they meet, mate and form relationships, and asking whether they can fall in love the same as humans. On her travels, she finds several animals that have discovered the secrets of successful long-lasting relationship, including the bonobo of the Congo, Africa's wild dogs and tamarins in the UK. But there are other sides to the story, like the devoted penguin couple that stayed together for 10 years, only for things to turn out not quite as they seemed. Liz also hears how a Siamaon gibbon dealt with the death of his life partner and meets a pair of elephants with an extraordinary friendship.

7.00 Countryfile. A visit to West Yorkshire, featuring a trail of stones with a poetic theme, a volunteer-run farm and the story of an 18th-century counterfeit scam.

8.00 Call the Midwife. A mum-to-be is distraught when her husband is arrested for gross indecency in the gents, while a pregnant Irish woman in need of nourishment goes missing.

9.00 Last Tango in Halifax. Gillian's wedding day arrives, but the bride is suffering a serious case of cold feet, leaving Caroline to get to the bottom of her stepsister's reluctance. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Arsenal v Aston Villa and Southampton v Swansea City. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League matches at the Emirates Stadium and St Mary's Stadium respectively.

11.30 The Apprentice USA.

12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.55 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The Football League Show. (R) **7.20** Countryfile. (R) **8.15** Live Tennis: Australian Open Men's Final. **12.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **1.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **2.00** Food & Drink. (R) **2.30** Joan Fontaine: Talking Pictures. (R) **3.00 Film:** Ivanhoe. (1952) Medieval adventure, starring Robert Taylor. **4.45** Flog It! Trade Secrets. **5.15** Ski Sunday.

6.00 The Coffee Trail with Simon Reeve. In the second of two This World documentaries examining the stories behind the nation's favourite beverages, adventurer and broadcaster Simon Reeve looks at the production of coffee. He heads to Vietnam, which is the UK's biggest supplier, and travels to the remote central highlands where he meets some of the millions who grow, pick and pack the beans for instant coffee brands. (R)

7.00 The Motorway: Life in the Fast Lane. Documentary series following one of the busiest stretches of motorway in Britain, where the M6 joins up with four other major routes. The men and women working behind the scenes spend their lives helping travellers get from A to B as safely and as quickly as possible in an area that often sees up to 8,000 vehicles an hour. Repairs to the road are one of the main problems to overcome, and the source of various disputes with residents – as locals Jim and Alan reveal. (R)

8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May go on a road trip across Australia's Northern Territory in GT cars.

9.00 Dragons' Den. A mother and daughter pitch waterproof products for children, while a trio of breakdancers introduce the Dragons to some innovative earphones. Evan Davis presents.

10.00 Film: True Grit. (2010) A farm girl recruits a hard-drinking, one-eyed marshal to help her track down the man who killed her father. The Coen brothers' Western, with Jeff Bridges and Hailee Steinfeld.

11.45 Film: New Jack City. (1991) Two maverick cops set out to topple a drugs baron who has transformed an apartment block into a seemingly impregnable fortress. Action thriller, with Wesley Snipes.

1.20 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.15** Holby City. (R) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. (R) **1.40** Off Their Rockers. (R) **2.10** Mel & Sue's Best Bits. **3.15** Tipping Point. (R) **4.15 Film:** The Spy Who Loved Me. (1977) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Get Your Act Together. Actor James Bolam is mentored by singer Michael Ball, A Question of Sport captain Phil Tufnell teams up with acrobatic basketball freestylers Face Team, model Amy Willerton is coached by the Veslovskis from Moscow State Circus, Emmerdale's Matthew Wolfenden and Natalie Anderson join Keelan Leyser's Quick Change Artists, and actress Chelsee Healey collaborates with aerial dance duo Starfiz.

8.15 All Star Family Fortunes. TV presenter Helen Skelton and Irish crooner Daniel O'Donnell team up with their families in an attempt to win a jackpot of £30,000 for charity. Vernon Kay hosts.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Harry pursues a new charitable project, Crabb faces a professional dilemma, a major fashion event proves a challenge for the staff and Miss Mardle decides to make a fresh start.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Perspectives – The Man in the Hat: Rene Magritte with Will Young. A fan of Magritte since the age of 15, singer and actor Will Young travels to the surrealist artist's native Belgium to explore his life, work and legacy. (R)

11.15 LV= Cup Rugby Union. Highlights of the latest pool matches, which included Harlequins v Bath, Gloucester v Ospreys and Wasps v Cardiff Blues.

12.10 The Store. **2.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.15** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 NFL: Rush Zone. **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00 Film:** Penelope. (2006) Romantic fantasy, starring Christina Ricci. **4.50** Channel 4 News. **5.20 Film:** Mr Popper's Penguins. (2011) Family comedy, starring Jim Carrey.

7.00 The Jump. New series. Return of the celebrity-packed winter-sport competition, presented by Davina McCall. Former Pussycat Doll Ashley Roberts, Jackass daredevil Steve-O, model Jodie Kidd, Made in Chelsea star Louise Thompson, ex-England rugby captain Mike Tindall, philanthropist Heather Mills, socialite Victoria Hervey, former JLS member JB Gill, singer-presenter Stacey Solomon, Paralympic cyclist Jon-Allan Butterworth, Richard and Judy's daughter Chloe Madeley, dancer Louie Spence, Gogglebox favourite Dom Parker, heptathlete Louise Hazel, A Question of Sport team captain Phil Tufnell and reality TV's Joey Essex are the 16 familiar faces flying to the Austrian Alps for this year's contest.

8.00 The Hotel. Mark plans a big wrestling event for the Cavendish, hoping that success could turn the hotel into a centre for the sport, while Mike organises a 1970s night.

9.00 Our Guy in India. Part one of two. Guy Martin takes a 1,000-mile journey across India to compete in a race called Rider Mania, the world's largest gathering of Royal Enfield motorbikes. Along the way, the daredevil rides with a 50-strong biker gang, visits Asia's biggest truck yard and clambers 833ft to the top of India's tallest building, the Imperial skyscraper in Mumbai. Although he's used to living life to the extreme, Guy finds himself completely out of his comfort zone, from sleeping rough among rats, to experiencing the torrential rain of a monsoon.

10.05 The Simpsons. (R)

10.30 The Super Bowl: American Football Live.

3.30 SuperScrimpers. (R) **3.40** Kirstie's Best of Both Worlds. (R) **4.35** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) **5.30** Face the Clock. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. **7.05** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.15** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.20** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.35** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.30** Wanda and the Alien. **8.45** Zack and Quack. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Access. (R) **10.40** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **11.40** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **12.35** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **1.35 Film:** A Little Princess. (1995) Family drama, with Liesel Matthews. **3.25 Film:** Hoodwinked. (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Anne Hathaway. **4.55 Film:** Made of Honor. (2008) Romantic comedy, starring Patrick Dempsey and Michelle Monaghan.

6.50 Film: Hellboy II: The Golden Army. (2008) The demon superhero, aided by a team from the Bureau of Paranormal Research and Defence, leads the fight against renegade elf Prince Nuada who is intent on reawakening an unstoppable robot army and bringing about the demise of mankind. Action fantasy sequel directed by Guillermo del Toro, starring Ron Perlman, Selma Blair, Doug Jones and Luke Goss. Edited for language and violence.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The remaining housemates embark on their final week, knowing only one of them can be crowned Celebrity Big Brother winner on Friday night. This has certainly been one of the most tense houses in recent history – can it possibly get any worse as the celebrities begin to eye up the prize?

10.00 Film: Justice. (2011) A man is approached by vigilantes after his wife is attacked, but learns the price for their help is that he must kill someone. Thriller, with Nicolas Cage and January Jones.

12.00 Britain's Flashiest Families. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Storage: Flog the Lot! (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.30** The Voice UK **9.00** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **9.30** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.50** Crims **11.20** Family Guy **12.05** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **12.35** South Side Story **1.05** Bangkok Airport **2.00** Life Is Toff **3.00** Bangkok Airport **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Shoah: Second Era **11.40** Sound of Song **12.40** Kraftwerk: Pop Art **1.40** Synth Britannia **3.10** Sounds of the 70s 2 Troubadours – Peaceful Easy Feeling **3.40** Close

ITV2
11.55 Take Me Out **1.10** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.55** You've Been Framed! **2.25** Scorpion **3.15 Film:** Stormbreaker (2006) **5.05 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **6.55 Film:** Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde (2003) **9.00 Film:** The Matrix (1999) **11.40** Tricked: More Favourite Tricks **12.40** Fake Reaction **1.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.10** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.35 Sherlock Holmes: The Last Vampyre **1.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.45** Rosemary & Thyme **4.45** Inspector Morse **7.00** Lewis **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00** Northern Lights **11.05 Film:** Pride and Prejudice (2005) **1.40** Countrywise Kitchen **2.30** Judge Judy **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
12.45 Darts: The Masters Live. Coverage of the quarter-finals. **5.00** Africa Cup of Nations Highlights **6.00** Counting Cars **7.00** Darts: The Masters Live **11.00** Africa Cup of Nations Highlights **12.00 Film:** Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998) **2.20** Nitro Circus **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Revenge **1.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.30** The 100 **3.30** Melissa & Joey **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.00** Marry Me **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Drillbit Taylor (2008) **10.05** The Big Bang Theory **10.35** The Inbetweeners **11.40** The Cleveland Show **1.10** Rules of Engagement **2.10** Suburgatory **2.55** One Tree Hill **3.35** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 An Elephant Called Slowly (1970) **1.00** Letters to Juliet (2010) **3.05** The Wizard of Oz (1939) **5.10** The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) **7.10** (500) Days of Summer (2009) **9.00** Immortals (2011) **11.10** Nosferatu the Vampyre (1979) **1.20** The Yards (2000) **3.45** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Angels Fall, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A chef who was the only survivor of a massacre tries to make a fresh start working at a diner in a remote rural town. She witnesses a murder in the wilderness and reports it to the police, but when a body is not found, the locals begin to suspect her traumatic experience has driven her mad. Drama based on Nora Roberts' novel, starring Heather Locklear. (2007)

TUESDAY
Carry On Jack, ITV, 11.10pm
A bumbling midshipman's uniform is stolen by a woman desperate to go to sea, who adopts his identity. Later, the hapless sailor is press-ganged on to the same ship as her. However, while trying to prove who he really is, he has to contend with mutinies, pirates and the Spanish Navy. Comedy, with Bernard Cribbins, Juliet Mills, Kenneth Williams and Charles Hawtrey. (1963)

Things We Lost in the Fire, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY
Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, BBC1, 11.45pm
An antiques dealer in a Deep South town kills his gay lover after a lavish Christmas gathering, claiming his actions were in self-defence. A journalist sent to write a feature on the party stays in town to cover the trial, and delves into the secretive local underworld to discover what really happened that night. Fact-based drama directed by Clint Eastwood, starring John Cusack, Kevin Spacey and Jude Law. (1997)

THURSDAY
Seduced by Lies, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman hopes to make a fresh start with a new relationship in defiance of her father's wishes, and turns her back on old friends when they are suspicious of her boyfriend. However, she gradually comes to realise that he has a shady past and is not as perfect as he appears. Thriller, starring Josie Davis. (2010)

FRIDAY
Things We Lost in the Fire, BBC2, 11.05pm
Devoted family man Brian tries to support his heroin-addicted friend Jerry, who has lost everything through his drug habit. When Brian is unexpectedly killed, his devastated widow Audrey invites Jerry to live with her and her children, and helps him to turn his life around. Drama, starring Halle Berry, Benicio Del Toro and David Duchovny. (2007)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Paul's not hanging around in this series

Paul O'Grady's not afraid to admit he's a big old softie – well, we see it in every episode of his For the Love of Dogs series, in which he manages to turn even the hardiest of us to mush.

While this is something slightly different, it still has that 'aw' factor and the ever-giving Paul can be content in the knowledge that he's still doing his bit for the animal kingdom.

Yes, this series had 'Paul O'Grady' written all over it, so it was little surprise when it aired for the first time last year that he was brought on board to present.

Paul has the best of both worlds as far as his career is concerned now, combining his love for animals in this series and For the Love of Dogs with the glitz and glamour of talking to celebrities on his live chat shows.

He explained to TV Choice: "I think I blend the two, although I'm sort of known now for animals. I used to drop hints on my tea time chat show when I'd have an owl on my head, a chicken on the desk and a dog under my arm. I was basically saying, 'Please hire me for an animal show because it's something I'd really like to do.'"

In Animal Orphans, he's been meeting animals that have been orphaned in the wild in South Africa and Zambia. Our host learns that many of these – lions, cheetahs, hippos, elephants, baboons, and rhinos, among others – are in fact orphaned because of humans; either because their parents have been poached and killed, or their natural habitat has been destroyed.

And while it's been a pleasure, this touching series wraps up tonight, with Paul visiting Bambelela, a rehabilitation centre for orphaned vet monkeys.

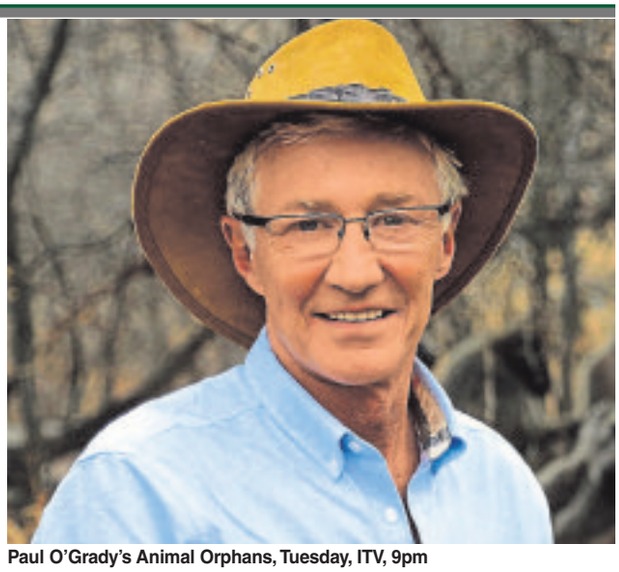
Cameras follow Paul as he cares for 10-month old Toledo, playing with him, feeding and trying to get him to settle at night – which isn't the easiest of tasks.

The presenter is also on hand to help test a troop of older monkeys to see if they're ready for life in the wild. An important thing to ensure is that they've understood and learned the calls and behaviours needed to escape predators – so it's time to bring out the rubber snakes, an eagle kite and a toy leopard.

Paul also visits Moholoholo Rehab Centre again, and discovers what it's like to be a volunteer with daily walks through the bush, cleaning the enclosures, and looking after the smelliest animal at the centre – the honey badger. Paul hits it off with five-month-old Julius, whose mum was hit by a car – but the badger takes quite a shine to the presenter and scent marks him several times.

Paul exclaims: "I feel like I've been trapped in a lift with 18 people who suffer from the worst BO in the world."

Plus, Paul revisits Olive the rhino, who he met in episode one, and chats with an anti-poaching activist, and before leaving Africa, he meets two giraffes and helps a velvet monkey find a new troop.


Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans, Tuesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Broadchurch
ITV, 9pm
Reviews for the second series of Chris Chibnall's landmark drama series may not have been quite as uniformly enthusiastic as for the first, but we still reckon it's one of the most compelling shows on telly. One of the reasons why it works so well is that all the characters have flaws – a fact which makes them both believable and relatable. Even hard-nosed defence barrister Sharon Bishop has her sympathetic moments – although not so many that you feel too sorry for her in the courtroom. Mind you, someone must sympathise, as this week she receives some help from a very unexpected source indeed. Meanwhile, as Hardy and Ellie continue their unofficial investigation into the Sandbrook case, some new information comes to light which calls into question everything which they thought they knew about the events. Surely Hardy can't have been barking up the wrong tree all this time? Mind you, it wouldn't be the first time Broadchurch has left us reeling.

TUESDAY
Inside the Commons
BBC2, 9pm
New series. Michael Cockerell presents a documentary filmed over the course of a year in the House of Commons, giving an insight into the day-to-day life and work of everyone from the Prime Minister to those who maintain the building. Cameras follow relatively new MPs Charlotte Leslie and Sarah Champion as they learn the ways of the House, while David Cameron and his opposite number Ed Miliband reveal what happens at Prime Minister's Questions. The programme also meets a gospel-singing tea lady who works in the members' tea room and joins a maintenance team abseiling down the face of the clock tower.

WEDNESDAY
Midsomer Murders
ITV, 8pm
When a pub landlady is crushed to death by a giant box during a magic show organised by famous illusionist Gideon Latimer, pathologist Kate discovers the cables had been deliberately sabotaged. Evangelising curate Andrew Maplin claims the tragedy is God's vengeance for the pagan traditions still held deep in Midsomer Oaks, but Barnaby and Nelson fear Gideon was the real target. Neil Dudgeon, Gwilym Lee and Tamzin Malleson star in the murder mystery, with Joe Absolom, Andrew-Lee Potts, Justin Salinger, Amanda Burton and Stephanie Leonidas.

THURSDAY
The Great British Sewing Bee
BBC2, 8pm
Needles at the ready, Claudia Winkleman is back for a new series that gives 10 home sewers the chance to prove that they are among the best in Britain. As you'd expect, they're an eclectic bunch, ranging from retired air hostess Lorna, who has always made her own clothes because at 6ft tall she struggles to find anything to fit her in the shops, to Neil, an army Lieutenant Colonel who began sewing at school in protest at the girls being allowed to join the football team. But no matter what their backgrounds or how much experience they might have, they will all be feeling nervous as they prepare to be judged by Savile Row's Patrick Grant and the WI's May Martin for the first time. For the opening episode, the theme is cotton as the stitchers are asked to make a pair of women's trousers, give a new lease of life to a denim shirt, and then whip up a summer dress for their real-life model.

The Great British Sewing Bee, Thursday, BBC2, 8pm

FRIDAY
Live Six Nations Rugby Union
BBC1, 7.30pm
Wales v England (Kick-off 8.05pm). John Inverdale introduces coverage of the opening match of this year's championship, which takes place at the Millennium Stadium. The tournament seems difficult to predict this time around, with Ireland joining these two nations as the favourites, but given the number of injuries suffered by England in recent weeks, the Welsh will expect to make the most of home advantage and start with a victory. While this is always a keenly contested encounter, there is even greater importance attached to it this evening, with the sides looking for a psychological boost ahead of their meeting in the pool stage of this year's World Cup in September. With commentary by Eddie Butler, Brian Moore and Martyn Williams, reports by Sonja McLaughlan, and analysis by Clive Woodward, Jonathan Davies and Jeremy Guscott.

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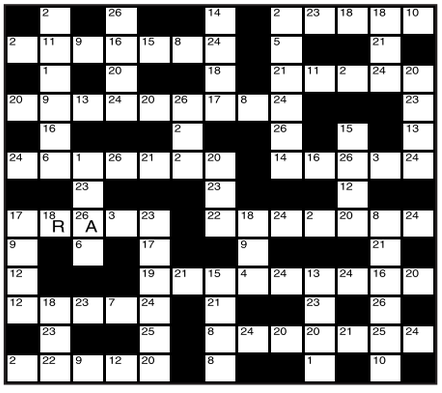
BRAIN GYM No.310

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18 R
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26 A

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	13
P	N	A	O	M	C	U	F	D	Y	L	T
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
J	E	K	G	B	V	W	Q	Z	R	X	S	I

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

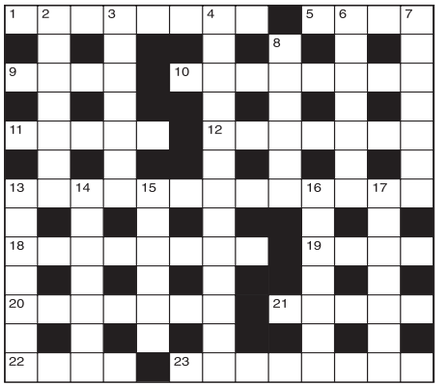
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Their wares are brought into play (3-5)
5. One unusually old object of veneration (4)
9. This jumper will cause irritation (4)
10. Where one puts the film secretly (2,6)
11. In the oceans fifty marine creatures (5)
12. Supervise a piece of poetry in Old English (7)
13. The causes of gradual deflation in the sphere of transport (4,9)
18. The skill is to attempt aesthetic achievement (8)
19. Being in a true dilemma, was sorry afterwards (4)
20. Describing one who is unfortunately spotted (7)
21. Stone near a way in (5)
22 & 7Dn. Surround the chiefs - those who instigate mischief (4-7)
23. Hedge plant used for filling rough mattresses? (8)

Down

2. Don't spare the lubricant that comes from here (3-4)
3. Takes food down for the bird (7)
4. This allows people to cross the water for two games (7-6)
6. Furniture for the casualty nurse (7)
7. See 22 Across
8. As money, it's naturally a gift (6)
13. Southern tent-dweller to run around briskly (7)
14. A Turk likely to get sat on! (7)
15. When it's put in mortar a powdery substance results (6)
16. Erected properly - in the Perpendicular Style? (7)
17. Choose an artist to be the daughter of Agamemnon (7)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Throw overboard (8)
5. Staunch (4)
9. Baton (4)
10. Summing (8)
11. Teacher (5)
12. Take in (7)
13. Stupidity (13)
18. Counter-measure (8)
19. Look for (4)
20. Generous (7)
21. Coach (5)
22. Sharpen (4)
23. Gather (8)

Down

2. Deletion (7)
3. Irksome (7)
4. Foolish traditions (3,5,5)
6. Offering (7)
7. Behaviour (7)
8. Quoit (6)
13. Superficial (7)
14. Famous (7)
15. Last (6)
16. Quack remedy (7)
17. Particular (7)

Sudoku

	9		7		1		2	
6		4		2				1
				8	4		3	
3		2		5				6
			9		2			
7				6		1		2
	7						6	
4				9		8		7
	1		8		5		9	3

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	3	2	6	9	5	4	1	8
4	5	1	2	3	8	7	9	6
6	9	8	1	4	7	5	2	3
9	7	6	4	8	3	2	5	1
5	8	4	9	2	1	3	6	7
2	1	3	5	7	6	9	8	4
3	2	9	8	6	4	1	7	5
1	6	7	3	5	9	8	4	2
8	4	5	7	1	2	6	3	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Remote; 4 Spasms; 9 Instantaneous; 10 Ejected; 11 Lapse; 12 Staff; 14 Typed; 18 Emend; 19 Digests; 21 Cooling breeze; 22 Petite; 23 Corset. Down: 1 Railed; 2 Missed the post; 3 Toast; 5 Penalty; 6 Stop-press news; 7 Sister; 8 Study; 13 Faddist; 15 Tea-cup; 16 Adage; 17 Ascent; 20 Garbo. QUICK - Across: 1 Trance; 4 Reaped; 9 Replenishment; 10 Idiotic; 11 Needs; 12 Miner; 14 Merit; 18 Roast; 19 Outrage; 21 Scintillating; 22 Singer; 23 Plunge. Down: 1 Torpid; 2 Amplification; 3 Chest; 5 Enhance; 6 Premeditation; 7 Detest; 8 Wince; 13 Entitle; 15 Crisis; 16 Moult; 17 League; 20 Trail.

Quiz

1. Which old British construction can be seen in Arizonaís Lake Havasu City?
2. In which city is the Kelvingrove Art Gallery?
3. What type of creature is the frogmouth?
4. What was the Giotto space probe built to study?
5. Who won a directing Oscar for Cabaret?
6. Which country's parliament is the Althing?
7. Which Radio 4 presenter died in January 1994?
8. What is the day after Halloween called?
9. Who was the first boxer to win world titles at five officially-recognised weights?
10. Who was JFK's campaign manager in 1960?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Norman Tebbit; 2 Walnut; 3 Diane Keaton; 4 Brewer's yeast; 5 The Samaritans; 6 UEFA Cup; 7 Fossils; 8 Kendo; 9 Jack Slipper; 10 Illinois.

Niner: HARLEQUIN

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

25865 gives an animal,
958643 gives a bird,
1536784 gives a fish.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Renovated village home

THE Old Bakery in Hartlebury, Kidderminster is a superbly renovated four double-bedroomed semi-detached Georgian property in a desirable location.

It is for sale through Allan Morris & Co at £395,000.

The original property has recently been comprehensively refurbished and re-planned to create two well proportioned and exceptionally well presented adjoining properties, of which Old Bakery is the major part. It has exposed timber beams and some exposed brickwork.

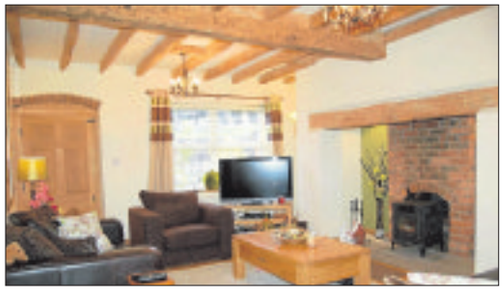
Kitchen

The lounge has a solid oak floor and a superb Inglenook fireplace.

The dining room has an exposed brick fireplace, and the breakfast kitchen has cream coloured cabinets and Corian working surfaces and useful integrated appliances.

There is also a utility with integrated appliances, WC, walk-in closet with drayman's hatch, cellar, two first floor bedrooms and a bathroom and two second floor bedrooms, shared parking, garage and generous gardens.

For further information contact Allan Morris & Co on 01299 825522 or visit www.allan-morris.co.uk



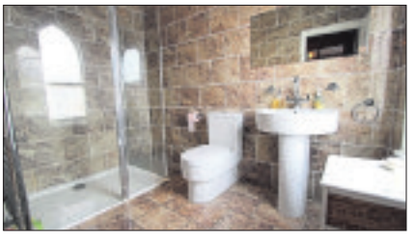
Outstanding family detached with period features

AN outstanding detached residence in Dudley Road, Dudley, packed with delightful original features is within walking distance of Sedgley centre.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £249,950.

Featuring 'all seasons' coloured glass windows in the entrance hall along with 'Original Mosaic' tiled flooring, a 23ft fully fitted dining kitchen, cellar, fashionable master en suite shower room it also has a porch, living room with a fire in a cast iron type fireplace, conservatory, laundry room, three bedrooms (master with original fireplace), bathroom and gardens.

For further information contact Skitts Estate Agents on 01902 686868 or visit www.skitts.net



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50 per cent stamp duty paid on village detached

WITH 50 per cent stamp duty paid, this beautifully presented extended four-bedroomed detached family home in Copper Beech Drive, Wombourne, Wolverhampton is in a sought after village.

It is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £359,995.

With generous accommodation the majority of it on the first floor with gas central heating and majority double glazing.

The property is tastefully decorated and briefly includes a ground floor porch, reception hallway, bedroom four, WC and the garage. On the first floor there is an 'L' shaped lounge/diner, breakfast/kitchen, conservatory, master bedroom with en suite, two further bedrooms and a bathroom.

Contact DB Roberts & Partners on 01902 427257 or visit the website www.dbroberts.co.uk

Huge potential and ideal corner position

IN a sought after area, 26 Stockwell Road, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton is a generous-sized five-bedroomed detached house in a commanding corner position.

It is for sale through Rees Page at £350,000 with no chain.

The property would benefit from a scheme of refurbishment but has much potential, say the agents.

With majority double glazing and central heating, it has a driveway and double garage to the rear of the landscaped gardens. It includes a reception room, dining room, lounge, breakfast room, vintage kitchen, utility/store, cellar, five bedrooms and bathroom.

For further information contact Rees Page on 01902 577799 or visit www.reespage.net

Wakeman

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4 ELMWOOD RISE, SEDGLEY £249,950
•Detached house on the popular Northway Estate
•Four bedrooms with en suite shower room off bedroom one
•Extended breakfast kitchen, utiltiy room & cloakroom
•Private attractively landscaped rear garden with excellent views
•SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C

26 SUNNINGDALE ROAD £222,500
SEDGLEY
•Extended & improved three bedroom link detached house
•Re-fitted bathroom & additional ground floor shower room
•Lounge/dining room, conservatory, utility room
•Attractively landscaped rear garden with decking area
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

41 GROSVENOR ROAD £219,950
ETTINGSHALL PARK
•Detached house with three double bedrooms
•Extended & well maintained accommodation
•Extended 'L'shaped kitchen and utility area
•Larger than average attractively landscaped gardens
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

50 CLAREMONT ROAD Offers Around £199,950
SEDGLEY
•Traditional style detached house
•Three bedrooms & recently re-fitted bathroom
•Extended kitchen & downstairs shower room,
•Attractively landscaped westerley facing rear garden
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

8 FIELDSTONE VIEW £199,500
LOWER GORNAL
•Attractive modern three bedroom detached house
•Set well back from the road
•Enhanced property with conservatory
•Gas central heating & double glazing, detached garage
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

75 NORTHWAY £195,000
SEDGLEY
•Link detached house
•Well maintained & presented
•Three bedrooms
•Private rear garden
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

1A COPPICE ROAD, COSELEY £184,950
•Improved end of terraced residence with three bedrooms
•Deceptive accommodation with gas central heating & double glazing
•Separate self contained one bedroom annexe
•Double garage, large tarmacadam area with parking for several vehicles
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

13 BREEN RYDDING DRIVE OIRO £172,500
COSELEY
•Three bedroom semi detached house
•Improved & extended accommodation
•Living room & dining area, conservatory
•Study/sitting room, large bathroom
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

10 CHESTNUT AVENUE OIRO £148,000
DUDLEY
•Extended semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Extended through living room
•Double glazing & gas central heating
•SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING E

179 TIPTON ROAD £145,000
WOODSETTON
•Spacious victorian terraced house
•Two large bedrooms
•Re-fitted kitchen & bathroom
•Secure parking at rear
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

55A SPRING ROAD £139,950
LANESFIELD
•Modern three bedroom detached house
•Extended, well maintained & attractively presented
•Situated in a pleasant cul-de-sac location
•Attached garage & easily maintained private rear garden
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

21 HALL STREET OIRO £123,500
CRADLEY HEATH
•Modern semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Well proportioned accommodation
•Gas central heating
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

35 PADARN CLOSE £122,000
SEDGLEY
•Modern terraced house
•Three bedrooms
•Ideal first time purchase / investment purchase
•Shower room, car parking space
•SEDGLEY OFFICE- EPC RATING C

33 KINGS ROAD £114,950
SEDGLEY
•Considerably improved mid terraced house
•Two bedrooms
•Well presented accommodation
•Gas centrally heated & double glazed
•SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D

4 HILL AVENUE £107,500
LANESFIELD
•Semi Detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Well maintained & improved
•Gas central heating & double glazing
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

35 BARNCROFT ROAD £102,950
TIVIDALE
•Semi detached house
•Well maintained & improved
•Two bedrooms
•Two reception rooms
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

24 FOSTER AVENUE £100,000
COSELEY
•Terraced house
•Three bedrooms
•Lounge, dining area/kitchen
•Gas central heating & double glazing
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

113 VIEWFIELD CRES O/A £73,950
SEDGLEY
•First floor flat
•One bedroom
•Own entrance hall
•Communal gardens
•SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C

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Private rear garden among detached bungalow features

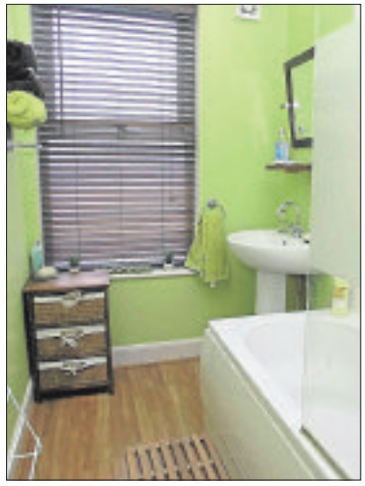
THIS detached, split level three bedroomed bungalow in Holly Close, Kinver is presented to superb standards, having light and flexible living space.

It is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £299,995.

With double glazing and gas central heating, it includes a dining/kitchen, bathroom and shower room, utility and a good sized, level and private rear garden.

For more details, call The Lee Shaw Partnership on 01384 396066 or visit www.leeshaw.com

Deceptively spacious house must be seen to appreciate



A SUPERB deceptively spacious two-bedroomed home which has been considerably improved, needs to be viewed to fully appreciate.

In Haden Hill Road, Halesowen, it is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents at £153,500.

Features include gas radiator heating and double glazing, two reception rooms, a vestibule, a cloakroom with WC, magnificent living kitchen with integral appliances, two good bedrooms, a first floor bathroom and rear garden.

Call 0121 5503978 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

Executive home has style and is tastefully decorated

A MOST elegant, well presented and tastefully decorated executive four-bedroomed detached home, 170 Cotwall End Road, Sedgley, Dudley has considerable style.

It is for sale through agents Rodens at £399,950.

A magnificent home it has a reception porch, reception hall with stairs off, WC, lounge with a wood burning stove, a sitting room with an open fireplace, a dining room, a breakfast kitchen with a stunning range of units.

Granite

It has granite work surfaces, an oven, a five burner hob, extractor hood, fridge, freezer and dishwasher. Additional features are a pantry, utility, reception room, family room, master bedroom en suite with French doors to a Juliette balcony and an en suite shower room, three further bedrooms and a bathroom with a white suite with a roll top bath with French-style shower attachment, double shower cubicle plus beautiful landscaped gardens and a garage.

For further information call 01902 881188 or visit www.rodenboydell.com

An immaculate mid-terrace with £129,950 price

AN immaculately presented three-bed mid-terrace in Hickmans Avenue, Cradley Heath is for sale through The Property Shop at £129,950.

It has a porch and entrance hall, lounge with a feature gas fireplace, kitchen/diner, dining area with a log burner and laminate flooring, utility, a ground floor shower room, sun room/lean to, three bedrooms, bathroom, central heating and double glazing, a front driveway and a rear garden. Call 01384 456022 or visit www.thepropertyshop.co.uk for details.

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WOODSETTON, Bosworth Close, 'The Poplars'

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS! Situated upon CORNER PLOT a stylish, double glazed & gas centrally heated DETACHED comprising; reception hall, cloakroom, living room with bay, separate dining room, kitchen with a fine range of units, utility room. Principal bedroom with fitted units & shower room en suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, Double (17'7 x 16'7) garage, professionally landscaped rear garden. EPC D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £260,000

SEDGLEY, Rowena Gardens, Northway

ENLARGED gas centrally heated uPVC double glazed detached with; hall, cloaks, 18 ft living/ dining room, sitting room, enlarged kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom, car port, garage, extensive parking. Stunning garden. EPC. D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £242,500

DUDLEY, Wistmans Close, Milking Bank

Situated at head of cul-de-sac; a gas centrally heated UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED detached family home comprising; reception hall, lounge, dining room with patio doors, good sized kitchen, pantry, utility room, fitted cloaks. FOUR bedrooms (principle bedroom with shower room en suite), bathroom, garage, block paved fore garden, secluded rear garden. EPC D.SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £239,950

GORNAL WOOD, Himley Road

EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached with self contained GRANNY EXTENSION comprising; porch, hall, cloakroom, cellarette, lounge, dining room, kitchen with CONSERVATORY beyond. Three bedrooms, bathroom, loft. Inter communicating door to granny suite with hallway, lounge, kitchen, double bedroom with bathroom en suite. Parking & access to driveway to rear WORKSHOP & carport, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £279,950

DUDLEY, Mansion Close, 'Earls Keep'

Gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached on corner plot with landscaped grounds in cul de sac with Hall, fitted cloaks, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, utility.FOUR BEDROOMS (principle with wardrobes & shower en suite), bathroom, garage, delightful garden forming a fine feature. EPC- D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £244,000

DUDLEY, Malthouse Drive

Exceptionally stylish! - gas centrally heated, double glazed detached with; hallway, cloaks, lounge, dining room, CONSERVATORY, kitchen, bedroom with shower room en suite, two further bedrooms, bathroom garage, garden.EPC: D.SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £165,000

WOLVERHAMPTON, Dovedale Road, Ettingshall Park

ENLARGED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached that requires updating comprising; porch, hall , two living rooms, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, driveway, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price **WAS £155,000, NOW £151,000**

COSELEY, The Paddock

EXTENDED, double glazed, gas centrally heated detached by cricket ground comprising' entrance vestibule, hall, cloaks/ shower room, dining room,16'9" lounge ,kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom,,23'2" garage, garden brick store. EPC:E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £149,950

WOODSETTON, Parkes Lane

EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached comprising; hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage (sub-divided to form store & utility room with toilet off). Garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £145,950

TIPTON, Wood Street

Significantly modernised, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached most conveniently situated within walking distance of so many amenities together with bus & RAIL transport routes comprising; hall, lounge, kitchen with a fine range of units, dining room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Block paved foregarden, delightful garden. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £140,000

BROCKMOOR, Belle Isle

This BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED, THREE BEDROOM, LINK DETACHED HOME encompasses: Hall, Guests w.c, Attractive Sitting Room, Contemporary Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Delightful Shower Room, Block Pave Driveway, Garage and Enclosed Rear Garden. EPC D.

£139,950

TIPTON, Lea Green Avenue, Foxyards

OUTSTANDING & EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached comprising; reception hall, extended L shape 22'3" living/dining room, kitchen with a fine range of "satin cream" finish units, vestibule/outer porch, two double bedrooms, bathroom. Part integral garage, gardens. (Mining history available) EPC. D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £120,000

COSELEY, Keats Drive

Freehold, gas centrally heated, DOUBLE GLAZED semi detached with DOUBLE GARAGE set in quiet backwater just off Siddons Road. Accommodation comprises; hall, lounge, kitchen with integrated appliances, pantry, dining room, three bedrooms, bathroom, toilet, driveway, garage, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price **WAS £122,950, NOW £119,995**

LOWER GORNAL, Lawnswood Road, Thornleigh

NO UPWARD CHAIN - gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi with potential set at head of cul-de-sac -vestibule, hall, enlarged kitchen, L shape living room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, shortened garage, extensive secluded garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

New price **WAS £124,950, NOW £117,950**

LANESFIELD, Gordon Avenue

Significantly modernised, conscientiously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached comprising; entrance hallway, lounge, tremendous "hub of the house" dining kitchen with an extensive range of units/appliances and incorporating an "island section, pantry. Two double bedrooms, bathroom with a white suite. Garden. EPC:E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £114,950

DUDLEY, Cardoness Place

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Stylish, double glazed, gas centrally heated, intermediate starter home with entrance hallway, lounge, recently refitted breakfast 'Avanti' kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, off road parking, garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £114,950

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Also at Stourbridge, Halesowen and Bearwood

GORNAL WOOD, Summit Place

Tremendously enhanced, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed detached family home comprising; hall, cloakroom, transverse lounge, dining room, store, refitted kitchen with range of maple effect finish units. FOUR BEDROOMS, bathroom with white suite, garage, delightful gardens. EPC:C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £195,000

DUDLEY, Osberton Drive, Milking Bank

Significantly ENLARGED, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached comprising; entrance hallway, lounge, refitted kitchen with a fine range of "light beech" effect units, pantry, 'L' shape utility room, cloakroom, store, dining/family room. Three bedrooms, bathroom (incorporating 'whirl pool' bath). Garden with distant views, block paved garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £173,950

LANESFIELD, NEW DEVELOPMENT, Plot 1, Mount Road

Just TWO, gas centrally heated & double glazed detached bungalows nearing completion comprising; hall, two bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, lounge, kitchen with range of units. GARAGE. Further details Sedgley Office, SAP:TBA

Plot 1: O/A £169,950

PENN COMMON, Sedgley Road

Within walking distance of Common, an EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached presented in EXEMPLARY CONDITION comprising; hall, living room, breakfast kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Extensive parking, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £195,000

SEDGLEY, Porthkerry Grove, Brownswall Estate

Conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated & primarily double glazed semi detached with potential set in short favoured cul-de-sac comprising; porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, lobby, store. Three generous bedrooms (possibilities of enlarging third bedroom into eaves?) bathroom, garage, sheltered rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £160,000

UPPER GORNAL, Goodrich Mews, 'Hedgerows'

Covered by remainder of NHBC guarantee. SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached comprising; hall, cloakroom, through lounge, REFITTED dining kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite. Neat garden & GARAGE together with further parking to rear. EPC. B. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £159,950

GORNAL WOOD, Himley Road

Tremendous potential! Gas centrally heated & uPVC/ aluminium double glazed semi detached with porch, hall, lounge, pantry, dining room, kitchen with replacement units, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, garden. EPC:E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £159,950

PENSNETT, Tansey Green Road

Forming part of this sought after and established address, this TRADITIONAL TWO BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME enjoys a CONSERVATORY together with a LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, REAR DOUBLE GARAGE and a large rear garden. EPC E

New price £136,950

SEDGLEY/WOODSETTON, Roper Way

Stylish, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached comprising; entrance hallway, 16'10" lounge, understairs store, REFITTED kitchen. Two bedrooms, bathroom (heated floor). 17'3" x 10'1" garage, garden. EPC: D, SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £130,000

PENSNETT, Hamble Close

This BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, STYLISH AND EXPENSIVELY FURBISHED, SEMI DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Attractive Sitting Room with Dining Area, Modern Kitchen, Contemporary Bathroom, Separate W.C, Garage, Garden AND also TWO GENEROUS FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS AND A VERSATILE LOFT SPACE with a VARIETY OF USES. EPC E

£124,950

WORDSLEY, Haden Close

●● OPEN DAY ●● Saturday 31st January 11am-1pm ●●
This IMPROVED, EXTENDED, NOW IMPRESSIVE END OF MEWS HOME offers a GENEROUS TWO BEDROOM layout with a CONSERVATORY, plus a large forecourt / driveway and DELIGHTFUL LARGE REAR GARDENS. EPC C

Open day £124,950

COSELEY, Hartland Avenue

Comparatively spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated & DOUBLE GLAZED intermediate home providing; entrance hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen. Two bedrooms, bathroom. Extensive parking to front, garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £99,450

LOWER GORNAL, Orchard Grove

Modernised gas centrally heated & uPVC single glazed GROUND FLOOR flat briefly comprising; reception hall, lounge, kitchen with 'maple' effect units. Two double bedrooms, bathroom. allocated garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £85,950

QUARRY BANK, Birch Avenue

SEMI DETACHED HOME for sale with NO UPWARD CHAIN! Requiring refurbishment and offering a fantastic opportunity to INVEST or to create a desirable home. Comprises: Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Guests W.C, TWO / THREE Bedrooms, Garden. EPC E

New price £79,950

SEDGLEY, Turls Hill Court, Tipton Road

Conveniently situated gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed GROUND FLOOR flat within short distance of fields & other amenities comprising hallway, lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, communal grounds, garage. EPC D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £79,950

KINGSWINFORD, Fairlawn Drive

NOTICE OF OFFER 42 Fairlawn Drive Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 9PE. By order of the mortgagees in possession, we would advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £164,000. Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the selling agents of their best offer either prior to exchange or within the next 7 days which ever is sooner.Taylors Estate Agents, 818 High Street, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 8AA Tel: 01384 401777

www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

Jon Stanier

01384 77877

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NEW

PENSNETT
CYGNET LANE

This superbly presented 3 Bed Semi-Detached is pleasantly situated in this ever popular address and provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning young family and comprises:- Hall, Spacious Lounge with Dining Area, Attractively Fitted Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 3 EXCELLENT BEDROOMS, Fitted Bathroom with Shower, LARGER THAN AVERAGE SIDE GARAGE, Pleasant good sized level Rear Gardens with southerly facing aspect and Driveway to Front.EPC=D

Offers around £144,950

NEW

BRIERLEY HILL
SOUTH PARK MEWS

Enjoying splendid SOUTHERLY FACING PANORAMIC VIEWS to the rear from this popular and very convenient cul-de-sac, this attractive 2 Bed Semi-Detached provides well proportioned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time buyer or young family and briefly comprises:- Hall, Spacious Lounge, Stylish REFITTED KITCHEN, 2 Well Proportioned Bedrooms, Sumptuous RESTYLED BATHROOM with Sep Shower Cubicle, Pleasant Lawned Rear Gardens overlooking public green space and Driveway to the Front. EPC=C

Offers around £99,950

REDUCED

BRIERLEY HILL
STOURBRIDGE ROAD

Pleasantly situated with panoramic views to the rear from this very convenient address, this spacious Traditional 4 Bed Detached provides GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and mostly UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young or growing family. Hall, sep Dining Room, extended Kitchen, 4 well proportioned Bedrooms, SUPERB LARGE FITTED BATHROOM with sep Shower, further home Bathroom, Garage, driveway for 2 cars and splendid large lawned Rear Gardens with pleasant private outlook. EPC=E

Offers around £177,950

PENSNETT
QUEEN STREET

A superbly presented, beautifully maintained 3 Bed Semi pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient address and providing well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning First Time Buyer or young family. Briefly comprises :- Hall, spacious Lounge with Dining Area, attractively fitted Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, superb reappointed Bathroom, pleasant lawned rear Gardens and Driveway for 2 cars to the front. EPC=C

Offers around £134,000

BILSTON/COSELEY
BATMANSHILL ROAD

Pleasantly and conveniently situated in this popular address this attractively styled Modern 3 Bed Semi-Detached provides well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom which although requires cosmetic upgrading and improvement represents an excellent opportunity for the young family.. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Hall, Downs W.C., separate Dining Room, Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 3 Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with shower, Side Garage, Lawned Rear Gardens and block paved driveway. EPC=D

Offers around £129,950

NETHERTON
PURLIN WHARF

This more "unique" Modern 2 Bed Detached provides superb GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and Upvc DOUBLE GLAZED first floor accom, pleasantly situated with splendid panoramic views to the rear on this popular new development and is ideal for the First Time Buyer, Investor or professional couple.Hall, Landing, spacious Lounge opening to splendid MODERN FITTED KITCHEN WITH BUILT IN OVEN AND HOB, 2 well proportioned Bedrooms, stylish Bathroom with shower, 2 car parking spaces and access to integral GARAGE (below) and 2 useful secure brick built stores.EPC=E

Offers around £119,950

PENSNETT
COMBER DRIVE

Pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient address this Modern 3 Bed Semi-Detached provides spacious partially GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family or First Time Buyer and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN.: Hall, Downs W.C., Lounge, Kitchen with Dining Area, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, REFITTED SHOWER ROOM, enclosed rear Garden with GARAGE and lawned foregarden with pedestrian access only. EPC=C

Offers around £119,950

BROCKMOOR
FOXFOOT DRIVE

Pleasantly situated in this ever popular and convenient address, this attractively presented 2 Bed Semi-Detached provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning young family or First Time Buyer. Hall, Spacious Lounge, Double Glazed CONSERVATORY, Fitted Kitchen, 2 Double Bedrooms, attractively Fitted Bathroom with Shower, pleasant low maintainance Rear Gardens with Southerly facing aspect and Driveway for 2 cars to the Front.EPC=D

Offers around £114,995

REDUCED

QUARRY BANK
WINDING MILL SOUTH

An attractively presented 3 Bed Intermediate Townhouse pleasantly situated on popular development providing refreshingly spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE glazed accom ideally suited to the First Time Buyer or young family. Porch/Hall, spacious Lounge, attractively fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob and adjoining Dining Area, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom with shower, pleasant lawned enclosed rear Gardens and car parking available for residents close by. EPC=G

Offers around £111,950

BRIERLEY HILL
WALDRON AVENUE

This attractively presented 3 Bed Semi provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family or First Time buyer and is pleasantly situated in this popular address. Hall, Spacious Lounge, REFITTED KITCHEN with built in oven and hob, Downs W.C., 3 Well Proportioned Bedrooms, attractively Fitted Bathroom with Shower, Pleasant good sized Rear Gardens with pleasant southerly facing aspect and backing onto Canal and Block Paved Driveway to the Front.EPC=D

Offers around £99,950

BRIERLEY HILL
MOOR STREET

An attractively presented and stylishly appointed 2 Bed End 'Mews' providing skillfully proportioned UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer or professional couple in this popular and very convenient address. Briefly comprises:- Hall, Lounge, SUPERB REFITTED KITCHEN, 2 Bedrooms (master with fitted wardrobes), REFITTED BATHROOM with Shower and allocated parking space to the rear. EPC=D

Offers around £87,500

REDUCED

MERRY HILL
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Period residence still retains original features

A MOST unique opportunity has arisen to acquire this attractive bay fronted period residence occupying a prime location in one of the city of Wolverhampton's most desirable neighbourhoods.

Priced at £325,000, it is set off Tettenhall Green village and its abundance of local amenities.

This semi-detached in Churchill Road has enjoyed meticulous restoration which offers a high standard of living whilst still boasting many original features, making an internal viewing essential.

Split over three floors the accommodation briefly comprises reception hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, dining room, sun room, guest wc, four bedrooms, family bathroom and landscaped gardens to the front and rear.

Call Nick Tart on 01902 755585.

Three-bedroom semi has £169,950 price tag

BEING well appointed with an impressive lounge/dining room, this three-bedroomed semi-detached house in the Finchfield area of Wolverhampton is for sale through Home Point at £169,950.

With double glazing and gas central heating , the property has an entrance hall, lounge/dining room, modern breakfast kitchen with a gas hob, oven and grill combination, contemporary bathroom with fully tiled walls, driveway to fore of the property with enough spaces for several vehicles and a garage.

Wolverhampton city centre is less than two miles away from the property in Whiteoak Drive.

For further information, or to arrange a viewing, contact 01902 766388 or visit www.homepoint.org.uk

Traditional terraced close to city centre and amenities

THIS two double bedroomed terraced house in Burleigh Road, Bradmore, Wolverhampton lies near the city centre in Penn Fields.

Close to schools, amenities and services it is for sale through Charles Darby at £89,950.

Accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, lounge with a fireplace and wood-effect flooring, dining room with a staircase off, wood-effect flooring , a kitchen with modern units, tiled walls and downstairs bathroom. Call 01902 244200 or visit www.charlesderbyestates.com

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A versatile five-bed town house

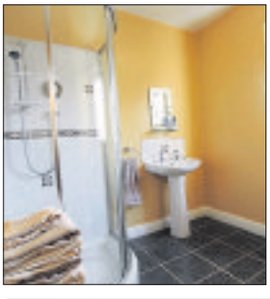
THIS five-bedroomed end town house in Highgate Road, Walsall, has versatile accommodation over three floors.

It is for sale through Edwards Moore at £179,950.

It has a sitting room, shower room, first floor lounge/dining room, breakfast kitchen, three second floor bedrooms, master en suite and a bathroom.

Visit www.edwardsmoore.co.uk

Extended semi with a price tag of £174,950



THIS much improved semi-detached home in Broad Lane, Bloxwich, Walsall has been extended.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £174,950.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has a dining room, lounge, shower room, kitchen, four bedrooms and bathroom. Call 01922 478104 or visit www.skitts.net

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Subaru's pioneering Outback crossover reincarnates for the fifth time this year

The new Subaru Outback, the fifth-generation of the brand's pioneering crossover, will go on sale in the UK from April 1 priced from £27,995 (on-the-road).

Introduced in 1995 as the first ever crossover and spawning a whole range of copy cat models ever since, the Outback has continued to successfully combine the virtues of a tourer with those of an SUV, winning over drivers with its practical, all-road nature.

The on the road price range of £27,995 to £32,995 means the all-new Outback stays in the same price bracket as the outgoing version despite having new exterior design, a more spacious and higher quality interior and a range of advanced safety equipment and in-car technology. The new Outback also boasts a very generous standard specification.

Technology

New to the latest model, EyeSight is Subaru's advanced collision avoidance technology which acts as a 'second pair of eyes' for drivers, employing stereo colour camera technology to monitor the road and traffic ahead for potential hazards. This is the first time the technology has been made available in the UK and Europe.

The system's two colour cameras are located in front of the rear view mirror to detect the presence of vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and other potential hazards. EyeSight is fitted as standard to every Outback fitted with Subaru's Lineartronic (CVT) transmission, and includes autonomous Pre-collision Braking Control and Pre-collision Throttle Management, Adaptive Cruise Control and Lane Departure & Sway Warning.

While clearly maintaining the distinctive Subaru Outback identity, Subaru's designers strived to make the new model more dynamic while keeping true to its rugged cross-over roots.

From the front, the bumper integrated hexagonal grille and hawk-eye headlights maintain consistency with other models in the Subaru family, while the profile is a subtle evolution of the existing Outback.

More significant changes can be found on the inside. The new model's revamped interior uses a range of higher quality materials throughout, resulting in a much more premium cabin, complimented by a new range of factory-fit infotainment and sat nav systems. The interior is also more spacious for passengers.

There are two engines available in the UK – a pair of horizontally-opposed four-cylinder 'Boxer' engines, fitted deep in the engine bay to ensure a low centre of gravity for improved handling, despite the car's raised ground clearance.

Buyers can choose between a 2.0-litre turbo-diesel, producing 150 PS and 350 Nm torque, or a naturally-aspirated 2.5-litre petrol unit, with power and torque outputs of 165 PS and 235 Nm respectively.

Diesel engines will be offered with either a six-speed manual transmission or Subaru's Lineartronic (CVT) transmission; the 2.5-litre petrol engine is sold exclusively with Lineartronic.

There are two trim levels available in the UK – SE and SE Premium – which both offer a generous level of standard equipment.

SE models are equipped as standard with automatic LED headlamps and headlamp washers, cruise control, Active Torque Vectoring, 17-inch alloy wheels, heated front seats, electrically-adjustable driver's seat and privacy glass, as well as a 7.0-inch touchscreen infotainment system, incorporating satellite navigation, audio, smartphone connectivity and a rear view parking camera.

Petrol SE models also feature an emissions-reducing start-stop system and Subaru Intelligent Drive, which allows drivers to select different engine modes depending on road conditions for improved economy and performance.

SE Premium models add a sunroof, keyless entry and push-button start, 18-inch alloy wheels, leather seats and a powered rear tailgate for added functionality.

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Zafira hits the spot for Dudley care firm

Commercial feature

When it came to replacing their three Ford Galaxy MPV's, Quest Day Care, owned and run by Diane and Paul Thompson, wanted to continue to emphasise their 'green' focus within the business and so looked to find the best vehicle to meet their needs. They found that vehicle in the form of the Vauxhall Zafira Tourer from Dudley Motor Company.

Quest Day Care work closely with Dudley Social Services in the care of people with learning difficulties. The vehicles are an integral part of the service they provide for the local community and the three new seven-seater Zafira models have been an instant success providing a 25 per cent saving in fuel costs while only emitting 109 gms/km of Co2. The care centre do a significant amount of travelling each year so these savings both in fuel and emissions are very important to the business.

Paul added: "The new Vauxhall Zafira Tourers are proving a great success, so much so that when we come to renew other vehicles in our fleet, the Zafira Tourer is likely to be top of our wish list."

Diane and Paul's business is an ideal example of how local companies like Dudley Motor Company work with businesses in their community to find winning solutions. You can find Dudley Motor Company on Trindle Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 7AY or for further information, telephone 01384 454100.

You can also visit www.dudleymotorco.co.uk

Newcomer

Vauxhall is set to tighten its already strong grip on the MPV segment with the all-new Zafira Tourer. The newcomer, which is positioned above the current Zafira in Vauxhall's line up, has set new standards in flexibility and innovation.

The all-new model builds on the chart-topping success of the well-proven Zafira, while offering improved cabin space, upgraded materials and even greater levels of innovation from the upgraded Flex7 seating arrangement.

With class-leading levels of luxury and prices starting at just £21,000 (more than £1,200 less than the Ford S-Max) the seven -seat Zafira Tourer is expected not only to attract traditional MPV customers, but also those customers who may never have considered such a vehicle.

The Zafira Tourer combines a compelling mix of cabin flexibility with many features and technologies taken from the luxury car sector. There are multiple seating configurations, including 'Lounge Seating' on key models, as well as a raft of new features, such as Vauxhall's new Front Camera system and state-of-the-art infotainment.

But what really defines the Zafira Tourer is its use of quality cabin materials, which sets new class standards.

Vauxhall's Vice President of Design, Mark Adams, has created a spacious and inviting environment for occupants, offering near-panoramic views for driver and passengers. Now, this new model bearing the Zafira name is transformed from a utilitarian people carrier into a flexible limousine that many executive car drivers would feel comfortable living with.

Since 1999, the two iterations of the current Vauxhall Zafira have dominated the compact MPV sector in the UK. Across Europe, 2.2 million have been sold, with almost a quarter of those sales coming from the UK.

And that performance has not diminished in recent years. In 2010, the Vauxhall Zafira was top of its segment in total, fleet and retail sales in the UK with a 24.3 per cent share of the total Compact MPV market after registering more than 30,000 units. The Renault Scenic had the next biggest share, though with 11,346 fewer sales than the Zafira.

This year, the Zafira is as popular as ever, commanding top slot in total and fleet sales to date. With 14,855 sales to the end of August, Zafira sales represent 18.1 per cent of the compact MPV market, and combined with Vauxhall's other compact MPV, the Meriva, they account for 36.1 per cent share of the compact MPV segment.

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10 10	**ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.416V** 5DR 22,500 MILES		£6995	
11 11	**CORSA SE 1.416V** 5DR WHITE 18,300 MILES		£6995	
11 61	**CORSA SE 1.416V** 3DR WHITE 23,500 MILES	£7495	£6995	£500
12 12	**AGILA SE 1.216V** 5DR MOROCCAN BLUE 16,500 MILES	£7695	£7295	£400
11 61	**INSIGNIA SE 1.816V** 5DR PANACOTTA 35,200 MILES	£8495	£7495	£1000
11 11	**ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.416V** 5DR STAR SILVER 20,000 MILES	£7995	£7495	£500
12 62	**MERIVA EXCITE 1.416V** 5DR SILVER LAKE 16,600 MILES OUR DEMO	£7695	£7495	£200
14 63	**CORSA Sxi 1.416V** 3DR A/C FLAME RED 11,000 MILES	£8245	£7995	£250
14 63	**CORSA Sxi 1.416V** 3DR A/C WHITE 10,500 MILES	£8245	£7995	£250
11 61	**MERIVA SE 1.416V** 5DR STAR SILVER 14,000 MILES	£8445	£7995	£450
12 12	**CORSA ACTIVE 1.416V** 5DR WHITE 11,500 MILES		£7995	
11 61	**ASTRA Sri 1.616V** 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE 26,000 MILES	£8445	£8195	£250
10 60	**ASTRA Sri 2.0CDTi** 5DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 32,400 MILES	£8495	£8195	£300
13 63	**CORSA Sri 1.416V** 3DR CARBON BLACK 19,000 MILES	£8745	£8295	£450
12 12	**MERIVA SE 1.4** 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE 19,000 MILES	£8745	£8295	£450
13 63	**CORSA SE 1.416V** 5DR CARBON BLACK 16,000 MILES	£8595	£8295	£300
13 13	**ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.616V** 5DR ASTEROID GREY 32,500 MILES	£9295	£8295	£1000
13 13	**ADAM JAM 1.2** 16V RED'N'ROLL 15,200 MILES	£8745	£8395	£350
12 12	**ASTRA ACTIVE 1.416V** 5DR ASTEROID GREY 14,000 MILES	£8945	£8395	£550
11 61	**ASTRA Sri 1.416V** 5DR RED 14,500 MILES	£8895	£8395	£500
14 63	**CORSA SE 1.216V** 5DR CRINAN BLUE 11,500 MILES SAT NAV	£8745	£8495	£250
13 63	**CORSA SE 1.416V** 3DR SILVER LAKE ONLY 2,800 MILES	£8945	£8495	£450
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12 62	**ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.7CDTi 130PS** 5DR SILVER LAKE 31,000 MILES	£9245	£8695	£550
09 09	**ANTARA S 2.0CDTi 16V 150ps** 5DR SILVER 44,300 MILES	£8995	£8695	£300
12 62	**CORSA LTD 1.216V** 3DR WHITE AND BLACK 10,500 MILES	£9095	£8695	£400
12 62	**ASTRA ACTIVE 1.416V** 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 15,900 MILES	£9245	£8795	£450
13 13	**CORSA LTD EDN 1.2 16V** 3DR FLAME RED 6,500 MILES	£9495	£8995	£500
11 11	**ASTRA Sri 1.7CDTi** 5DR SILVER LIGHTNING 39,600 MILES		£8995	
11 11	**ASTRA ELITE 1.7CDTi** 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE 26,000 MILES	£9895	£9295	£600
11 61	**INSIGNIA Sri 2.0CDTi 160ps NAV** 5DR WHITE 29,300 MILES	£9650	£9395	£255
11 61	**ASTRA ELITE 1.616V** 5DR SILVER LAKE 19,500 MILES	£9795	£9445	£350
13 13	**ASTRA ENERGY 1.416V** 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 11,500 MILES	£9795	£9545	£250
14 14	**ADAM JAM 1.216V** 3DR PURPLE FICTION 3,300 MILES	£9995	£9695	£300
13 63	**ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV 1.7CDTi** 5DR ASTEROID GREY 11,500 MILES OUR DEMO		£10995	
13 13	**INSIGNIA Sri NAV 2.0CDTi** WHITE 13,000 MILES 18' ALLOYS	£13745	£12995	£750
14 14	**ASTRA GTC 2.0CDTi 165PS** 3DR POWER RED 10,300 MILES SAT NAV, 19'S	£15245	£14495	£750
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07 56	**ASTRA DESIGN 1.8 16V** 5DR SILVER 44,000 MILES	£4,295	£3,995	£300
10 60	**PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 1.0** 3DR RED 28,000 MILES	£4,695	£4,495	£200
09 59	**FORD KA STYLE+** 3DR JUMP GREEN 31,000 MILES	£5,295	£4,995	£300
07 07	**PEUGEOT 207 1.6GT** CABRIOLET MET BLUE 32,000 MILES	£5,895	£5,695	£200
11 61	**KIA PICANTO AIR 1.0** BLUE 5,000 MILES	£6,295	£5,995	£300
11 11	**MERIVA EXCLUSIV 1.4T** 5DR PEPPERDUST MET 50,000 MILES	£6,295	£5,995	£300
10 10	**VW BEETLE LUNA 1.4** 3DR MET BLUE CREAM LEATHER 40,000 MILES	£7,195	£6,995	£200
11 60	**FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.6** MET BLUE 36,000 MILES	£7,295	£6,995	£300
11 61	**PEUGEOT 308 1.6HDi** 5DR 35,000 MILES MET BLUE	£7,795	£7,495	£300
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08 57	**VW GOLF MATCH 1.9TDi** 5DR BLACK 46,000 MILES	£8,000	£7,695	£305
11 61	**PEUGEOT PARTNER TEPEE 1.6HDi** 5DR MET BEIGE 27,000 MILES	£7,795	£7,495	£300
10 10	**VW GOLF Tsi 1.4** 5DR MET BLUE 22,000 MILES	£8,750	£8,495	£255
07 07	**AUDI A4 S-LINE 2.0T Fsi** AUTO CABRIOLET 63,000 MILES		£8,495	

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12 62	**COMBO SPORTIVE 1.6CDTi** LWB MET SILVER 19,000 MILES (EX T WALL SERVICE)		£7,995	
13 13	**VIVARO SPORTIVE 2.0CDTi** 115PS LWB 2900 SILVER 24,000 MILES		£11,995	
13 63	**VIVARO SPORTIVE 2.0CDTi** 115PS LWB 2900 SILVER 15,000 MILES		£13,500	
14 14	**VIVARO SPORTIVE 2.0CDTi** 115PS LWB 2900 SILVER		£14,250	

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14 64	**ASTRA LTD EDITION 1.6** 16V FLIP CHIP SILVER DELIVERY MILES 1 ONLY		£14495	
14 64	**ASTRA SE 1.616V** 5DR CARBON BLACK DELIVERY MILES 1 ONLY		£14995	
14 64	**ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV 1.816V** 5DR POWER RED 2 ONLY	£11995	£11695	£300
15 64	**CORSA VXR 1.6 TURBO** 3DR WHITE & ARDEN BLUE BLUETOOTHFROM		£14495	
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4 Pets & Animals

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5 Business & Farming

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6 Property

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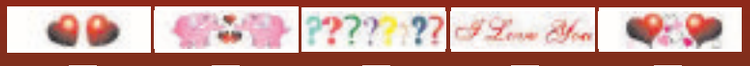

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07794 572467.

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07833 334999.

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RENAULT CLIO Grande, X reg, 1149cc, used daily, MoT March, £375 ono. 07542 357297.

SAAB 93 1.9TiD Sport, 2005, diesel, blue, 139,000 miles 3 previous owners, alloys, full MoT, £1,295. 07867 601027.

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Old Hales come out on top of battle

Old Halesonians 2nds 22
Sutton Coldfield 2nds 15

Rugby

ON a bright and breezy day at Wassell Grove both teams battled it out trying to gain dominance up front.

After 14 minutes of play Old Hales took clean ball from a lineout 15 metres from the Sutton try line and set up a driving maul.

Callum Young secured the ball at the back and made a timely break to score unopposed for a 5-0 lead to Old Hales.

After a further period of 10 minutes, with both sides having equal possession littered with basic mistakes, Sutton won a lineout close to the Hales line. A catch and drive proved successful for Sutton as they forced their way over for a converted try to make it 7-5 to Sutton.

Old Hales gradually took control at the scrum, providing a sound base for attacking play. From one of the attacking moves, left wing James Mitchell made his way towards the try line only to be bundled into touch five metres out. A Sutton error at the ensuing lineout gave Jon Deeks the opportunity to drive forward. From the ruck Matt Weaver took the ball on but was stopped just short of the line by Sutton's resolute defence.

Scrum half, George Eccles switched the ball to Callum Young in midfield and he slipped the ball to Jon Harris who crossed the line to score. The conversion was missed and Old Hales went in at half time with a 10-7 lead.

An early error by Old Hales in the second half allowed Sutton to score a penalty to bring the scores level. Old Hales came back strongly . Hales regained the lead when No.8 James Saddler controlled the ball at the back of a driving scrum, picked up and powered his way over the Sutton line for a try, Andy Tromans added the conversion.

Shortly after Sutton hit back and, an attacking move down the right resulted in a try. The conversion was missed leaving the score 17-15 to the home side.

Old Hales piled on the pressure towards the end of the game and after a sustained attacking period in the Sutton 22 the ball was released from a ruck and Alex Herbert fed wing Jake Shellis, who was coming up at pace, to score the winning try.

Tividale to report 'illegal approach'

TIVIDALE will report Banbury United for an illegal approach for striker Deqwon Ebanks.

The 19-year-old forward has confirmed he is staying with the Evo-Stik Division One South side after talks with boss Ian Long but Tividale accused Southern Premier strugglers Banbury of speaking to Ebanks without permission.

Tividale claim that Banbury announced on their website they had signed the former Birmingham and Hereford player and they Tividale received the necessary seven days' notice.

"We believe that Banbury United held talks with Deqwon Ebanks without being granted permission.

"Tividale Football Club are extremely disappointed by their actions and will be making the County FA awareof the dialogue between all parties concerned." Long was delighted to keep hold of the promising youngster.

"Like Jordan Archer, Deqwon recognises the potential here and the togetherness shown at this football club from top to bottom," said Long.

"Deqwon has all the attributes to be a very, very good footballer. He's a strong, powerful player."

Anichebe proves to be Albion talisman

Blues 1 Albion 2

THE Baggies found an unlikely Cup talisman in the shape of Victor Anichebe.

Football

His laid-back style can frustrate supporters, teammates and managers alike. However, his power and eye for goal has now played a key part in guiding his side to the last 16. And Saturday brought a classic Anichebe display.

He was languid at times, downright lethargic at others yet still good enough in the moments that mattered to win a keenly-contested game for his side and move them a step closer to a big day out.

If only Pulis could unlock the rich potential of the big Scouser on a more regular basis and convince him that his body is stronger than he thinks, his current striker search might take on a less desperate look.

There were times when Pulis was apoplectic on the touchline with his team's sloppiness, especially in a second half in which their neighbours and hosts bombarded them with the kind of barrage that seemed certain to force a replay.

There was no inferiority complex about Gary Rowett's team despite the one-division gap between the sides and they played their full part in an intriguing encounter.

Yet they found their former goalkeeper Ben Foster in good form after he had replaced another ex-Blue in the injured Boaz Myhill, and their only goal came when Albion committed a rare defensive lapse late in the first half to doubtless ensure a half-time tongue-lashing from the ever-demanding Pulis.

Albion should have gone into the interval looking comfortable.

The Baggies threatened first when Saido Berahino lashed an early shot into the side netting but the game had struggled to get going when the young striker turned provider for Anichebe's opener on 25 minutes.

Berahino's through-ball found his strike partner in the area and Anichebe beat Blues keeper Darren Randolph, who should have done better, at his near post. And the visitors looked to be cruising when Anichebe doubled their lead 10 minutes later with a virtual carbon copy goal.

This time he collected a Berahino pass in a slightly more central area, outmuscled Paul Robinson and placed a shot inside the far post with the aid of a slight deflection.

Albion should have taken their two-goal cushion into the dressing room but Blues had other ideas and breathed in new life through Jonathan Grounds..

Joleon Lescott and Gareth McAuley of Albion in the thick of the action against neighbours Birmingham

Troman is back first for DK in run

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club mixed it up with the region's elite on Saturday in the Midland Counties Cross Country Championships at Wollaton Park in Nottingham.

This was a massive event with clubs from as far apart as Bristol, Banbury, Kettering, Kenilworth, Leicester, Leamington, Wellingborough and Wolverhampton.

The blue hoops were able to field teams in both the women's and men's races. The ladies race over 8k covering three laps and the men's race over 12k and four large laps of a difficult, undulating course. .

Helen Troman's was first back for the club in the women's race in 112th in 36.45, Carol Fisher was 156th in 39.50, Lynn Sprague 41.49 in 183rd place, Sally McConville was 220th in 44.31 and Charlotte Tonks was 250th in 49.25. In the team event won by Bristol & West from Charnwood AC and Birchfield Harriers, DK finished in 24th out of 30.

In the men's event Ben Foster brought the club home in 75th place in 42.11 from Andy Sprague in 218th in 48.22, James Wright in 231st in 48.55, Mark Gatenby in 252nd in 49.38, Daren Thompson in 271st in 50.30 and Dave Norman in 273rd in 50.35 to make up the scoring team. Kieran Pitt was 307th in 52.06, Pete Hood was 322nd in 52.54, Steve Wood was 333rd in 53.28, Graham Wildgoose was 360th in 55.00, Mark Homer was 370th in 55.32 and Mark Judge was 384th in 57.05. In the team event DK placed 23rd of the 38 clubs.

La Parra is settling in at Wolves

WOLVES winger Rajiv Van La Parra insists he has adjusted to the Championship and is only going to get better.

The23-year-old wide-man believes he will only improve after adapting to the English game.

"Coming over here from another country and adapting for a different style of football was going to take time," he said.

"But the more games I've played, the more I've done that and I think it can get better and better.

"If you're in the kind of flow I'm in and the team are in you just want it to carry on." Van La Parra is also happy to play up front after being used in a more central role recently.

Jackett in warning over Sako

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett has warned Albion their interest in winger Bakary Sako is unwelcome.

But the head coach admitted if the Baggies – or any other Premier League side – met the Molineux board's valuation, discussions with the player would then take place.

Jackett insists there have been no bids yet for the 26-year-old, who is out of contract at the end of the season.

But Albion sources have already confirmed their interest – and Villa and QPR are also thought to be looking.

Sako did his value no harm by scoring a cracking opener in Mali's 1-1 draw against the Ivory Coast.

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Govier is the last piece for Heathens

CRADLEY have finalised their squad for the new Speedway season by signing teenager Tyler Govier as their stand-by rider.

Govier, aged 18, will be used on the occasions when a Heathens reserve is unavailable and, although his opportunities will be limited, he is excited by the challenge of joining the reigning champions.

Having been handed the opportunity to join the "best club in the National League", he is keen to build on the experience he has gained with Buxton and Devon over the past two seasons.

Said Govier: "I'd like to thank the club for giving me the opportunity, and enabling me to be part of such a great club.

"Cradley is the best club in the National League, they've been really successful over the last few years and the chance to be part of that was something I just couldn't turn down really.

"I'm really looking forward to getting started, and hopefully I can take the opportunities I'm given."

Govier will join his new team mates for the first time at Cradley's press and practice on Wednesday, March 11 – followed by the club's season launch event that same night at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill.

Hackett makes double swoop

STOURBRIDGE boss Gary Hackett has continued to revamp his squad after signing two defenders.

Tyrone Williams has joined on a month's loan from Kidderminster Harriers, while former Albion youngster Luke Connolly has also arrived at Amblecote from Leamington.

The 20-year-old Williams, who progressed through the Harriers academy, has had first-team experience on loan at Redditch United and Sutton Coldfield Town.

Williams, who joins Harriers' Reece Hales at the Evo-Stik Premier club, will initially be with Stourbridge until February 14.

Connolly, 21, had a spell in Sweden after leaving Albion and then joined Solihull Moors on returning to England before switching to Leamington. The Brakes will retain his Conference registration.

Pulis brings in tough new training regime

Football

ALBION keeper Ben Foster has lifted the lid on Tony Pulis' tough new regime at Albion and insisted: "Nobody gets away with anything now".

Foster says the new Hawthorns head coach has tightened up on discipline and put in place a "brutal" new training regime to get players fitter.

The Baggies are unbeaten in four games under Pulis after Saturday's 2-1 FA Cup win at Birmingham.

Foster, who worked under Pulis previously at Stoke, said: "He lets nobody have rest days or slack off – nothing like that. Everybody is training to their maximum potential every day and everybody is looking a bit fitter and sharper.

"We get a Sunday off, which is a nice family day, but when we're in in the week it's hard work and it's a big step up from what we have been doing in recent years and I really like it.

"That is Tony's way. I knew that before. He's so professional, so thorough and he thinks everything through down to the minutest detail. If you're somebody who is willing to work hard, be professional and do it the right way then you'll fit in, and if not you haven't got much of a chance with him.

"I would say he is just onto players a bit more.

"Nobody really gets away with anything now."

"Maybe coming in on a Monday when you haven't got a game until Saturday and you're still maybe a bit sore from the game on a Saturday, maybe before you could have had a little rest day and taken it easy.

"You don't get that now. It is brutal but I love it. I think it's fantastic. If I was a manager I would be like him. It's great.

"You've got to treat football players like kids sometimes. If you give them an inch they will take a mile – it's amazing.

"He has set up a brilliant fines system which has already recouped a good bit of money and people will be looking over their shoulders and not slipping up anymore."

Foster played his part in the derby at the weekend and while he conceded a goal from Blues defender Jonathan Grounds he saved two long-range efforts late in the game from substitute Demarai Gray.

YELTZ UNABLE TO BREAK DEADLOCK

Halesowen Town 0 Ilkeston FC 0

IN-FORM Halesowen were just unable to break the stalemate in a compelling tussle between the division's two in-form teams.

But the Yeltz always looked more likely to snatch any match winner as Tom Tonks launched a series of dangerous long throw-ins into the heart of Ilkeston's penalty area.

Football

Visiting goalkeeper Jordan Smith tipped away an early looping half-volley from Tonks and then pushed away a goal-bound shot from Kris Green to keep Yeltz off the scoreboard.

The Robins replied as Rob Duffy's 24th minute header bounced off the top of the Halesowen bar giving the hosts a reprieve.

Lively

Halesowen's Ben Haseley looked lively and made a fine run before squaring for Tonks to shoot weakly and Smith was in action again as he grabbed Iyseden Christie's deceptive back header to make sure the deadlock was still in place.

A loud appeal for a penalty then fell on deaf ears as the ball struck Ilkeston's James Reid.

Home captain Curtis Tilt won three crucial defensive challenges before Matt Sargeant turned away a good effort from Ilkeston's Akil Wright in the 40th minute.

Just before the interval, Green worked well forward again but his attempt rolled agonisingly wide of the mark and both sides had to go into the changing rooms scoreless.

The Yeltz went close in the second half when Aaron Griffiths scooped over the bar and Christie latched on to a poor clearance from goalkeeper Smith to fire just wide.

Further late chances fell for Danny Bragoli but his shot fired high and substitute Robert Thompson-Brown's half-volley deflected safely into Smith's arms which meant the game ended even and the points shared.

Halesowen Town: Sargeant; Green, Griffiths (MacKenzie 88), Forde, Kettle,

Tilt (c), Charlton, Tonks, Christie (Thompson-Brown 77), Haseley, Bragoli (Turner 77).

Unused Subs: Hull, Pearson (GK).

Ilkeston FC: Smith; Reid, Shaw, Baker, Maguire (c), Lane, Wright, Chettle,

Duffy, Williams (Fortnam-Tomlinson 64), Simons (Samba 87).

Unused Subs: Gorman, Hodgett-Young, Uade.

Referee: Grant Taylor.

One week on and Wolves wilt at Molineux

Wolves' Dave Edwards takes on Charlton defender Tal Ben Haim during the scoreless match

Wolves 0 Charlton 0

THEY say a week is a long time in politics but it seems the same is true of football, certainly for Wolves.

Seven days on from the joyous scenes at the end of the Blackpool game that provided a fitting send-off for Sir Jack Hayward, Wolves failed to produce a fitting finale.

In fact, the 23,487 inside Molineux will know it was a lot worse than that as they digested the news that their bitter rivals had their eyes on their best player in Bakary Sako, who was much missed.

If the former owner and chairman was watching on, he would have had a wry smile at the chants of 'thumbs up for Sir Jack' because he'd have felt it was more of a thumbs-down moment in his beloved team's quest for Premier League football.

Wolves huffed and puffed their way through this fixture, which was every bit as dull and grey as the the Wolverhampton skyline.

Head coach Jackett had called for high energy and a greater crispness to their game.

But for the second match in a row, his side lacked sufficient tempo and urgency to earn the right to put the game to bed early on. Seven days earlier, the breakthrough always seemed within sight but they found Charlton made of tougher stuff.

Aston looks for fast track

DUDLEY'S Ryan Aston believe he can be fast-tracked to major domestic titles in the light middleweight division this year, *writes Craig Birch*.

'Tank' will get his 2015 up and running with a fight on Valentine's Day night, with Simone Lucas likely to be in the other corner.

Aston is primed for four rounds at Wolverhampton Civic Hall in front of the BoxNation cameras, as he looks to continue his rebirth a division down at light middleweight.

The 23-year-old wants a shot at the English title currently held by Navid Mansouri, who has already pulled out of one British title shot through injury.

The slick southpaw remains in the top 10 of the British rankings, with Liam Smith in possession of the Lonsdale belt but running out of challengers.

Aston said: "Everything is going to plan and sounding good and I am not far off contention of mixing it with anyone. Things can happen quickly."

For more information and tickets call 0870 320 7000 or promoter Paul 'PJ' Rowson on 07976 283 157.

Clarke will get his shot at title

HALESOWEN'S Lennox Clarke is just glad to have an opponent for his shot at the British Masters Bronze super middleweight title next month.

Clarke steps through the ropes in the Stadium Suite at the Banks's Stadium on Saturday February 21, with the contest scheduled for eight rounds.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, January 29

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